

# LEAP 2014

## COLLABORATING FOR INCLUSIVE EXCELLENCE AND INNOVATION ★★★★★

**Learn about LEAP. Collaborate across departments, units, and offices. Create action plans. Earn a stipend for faculty, staff, or student development.**

Liberal Education and America's Promise (LEAP) is sweeping the nation as one of the most invigorating programs for institutional change that we've seen in higher education in decades. Wisconsin was in on the ground floor as a pilot state for LEAP, and now hundreds of campuses around the country are joining in.

“Launched in 2005, LEAP challenges the traditional practice of providing liberal education to some students and narrow training to others. LEAP engages the public with core questions about what really matters in college; connects employers and educational leaders as they make the case for the importance of liberal education in the global economy and in our diverse democracy; and helps all students achieve the essential learning outcomes. Through LEAP, AAC&U calls on the United States to ‘make excellence inclusive’ so that all students receive the best and most powerful preparation for work, life, and citizenship.”

- <http://aacu.org/leap/>

### QUESTIONS

Now that our campus has adopted LEAP, many are wondering: “What does LEAP mean?” “Where did it come from?” “What does it mean for me and my department?” “Will it really benefit students, and if so, how?” “What happens next?”



### INVITATION

You are cordially invited to join a series of hands-on workshops designed to explore the many elements of LEAP. Campus representatives will be on hand to discuss LEAP and facilitate larger conversations about what it can mean at UW-Whitewater. Help us define a LEAP vision. *All campus employees and students are eligible to apply.*

### THEMES FOR 2014

Workshop teams will develop action plans that promote one or both of the following themes:

- **Inclusive Excellence**—the active process of enhancing diversity and inclusion to assure that all students receive the best and most powerful education and that we all have an excellent and inclusive place in which to work and learn;
- **Innovation**—exploring ways to improve teaching, learning, and work in an era of increased challenge and reduced resources (“doing more with less”).

### TEAMS

We invite campus faculty, staff, students, and administrators to form teams to explore how we can use LEAP and the themes of Inclusive Excellence and Innovation to work toward meaningful transformation for teaching, learning, and work at UW-Whitewater. Each LEAP team will develop a short-term (spring semester) and longer-term (academic year 2014-2015) plan for using LEAP. To facilitate collaboration and build bridges across departments, each team should have 3 or more members and represent three or more different departments, units, or offices. Each team should include one or more student members.

If you are new to LEAP, this workshop series is a great place to learn. If you participated in a previous year, you are eligible to apply for this 2014 workshop series if you lead or join a new team that bridges departments, units or offices in new ways.

If you are an individual looking to join a team, we can help you find teammates: please contact Greg Cook at [cookg@uww.edu](mailto:cookg@uww.edu).

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### WORKSHOP SCHEDULE

Teams accepted for participation will:

1. Meet for two days in January to explore LEAP, 8:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. both days. Your team can select either January 7 & 8 or January 14 & 15. Your whole team needs to meet together on the two days you select. Team time will be available to develop concrete action plans.
2. Submit a team action plan two weeks later, and implement the plan.
3. Meet again from 8:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. for two days in May to share progress from the spring semester, dig deeper into LEAP, exchange ideas for best practices, and revise team action plans for academic year 2014-2015. Your team can select either May 19 & 20 or May 22 & 23. Your whole team needs to meet together on the two days you select. Team time will be available to revise concrete action plans.
4. Submit a revised team action plan one week later, and implement the plan.
5. Attend a share-and-review session during the spring 2015 semester (to be scheduled later).

### STIPENDS

Eligible participants will receive stipends (per person) of \$200 upon completion of the January workshop and submission of the team action plan. Participants receive an additional \$600 after completion of the May workshop and submission of their revised action plan.

### TO APPLY

Form a team with representatives from three or more different departments, units, or offices (include at least one student).

Send an email by December 6 to Greg Cook (cookg@uww.edu) with the following information (one email per team):

1. A list of your team's participants, with email addresses and each person's department, unit, or office.
2. Indicate the dates in January that your team can meet (whole team together): either January 7/8 or 14/15.
3. Indicate the dates in May that your team can meet (whole team together): either May 19/20 or 22/23.
4. Provide a one-paragraph description of your team's main motivation and/or goal for participating in the 2014 LEAP workshop.

*Seats are limited for this workshop series.* Acceptance will be subject to space availability, budget and our desire to have representation from a variety of departments and units across campus. A firm commitment to the entire workshop program is necessary in order to receive stipends.

### FACILITATORS

#### Greg Cook

Associate Vice Chancellor for Academic Affairs

#### Lois Smith

Associate Dean, College of Business and Economics

#### Brent Bilodeau

Assistant Vice Chancellor for Student Affairs

#### Joan Littlefield Cook

Director of Academic Assessment

Members of campus LEAP teams

Sixty LEAP teams with nearly 300 members have participated so far. Now it's your turn!!

Please direct questions to Greg Cook at cookg@uww.edu.

