WPI Class of ’57 Teaching Development Travel Grants

Administered by the Morgan Teaching and Learning Center

Announcement Date: November 9, 2026
Application Deadline: November 30, 2026

Teaching Development Travel Grants provide support for faculty to participate in a conference, external institute/workshop, or other travel that focuses on pedagogy, assessment of student learning, curriculum design, or the scholarship of teaching and learning. The primary intent of the grants is to enable WPI faculty to connect with external communities: to learn from national teaching scholars and practitioners and to apply what they learn to their teaching, scholarship, or leadership practice, and/or to disseminate their own work. The grants are made possible by the generosity of the Class of 1957 through its Excellence in Teaching Fund.

Eligibility

For the round of grants to be funded in Fall 2026, all full-time secured teaching faculty (TRT) and all teaching-mission tenure-track faculty are eligible to apply. Priority will be given to individuals who have not yet received one of these awards; however, all individuals are encouraged to apply.

Appropriate Uses

Travel to conferences, institutes, or workshops should be dedicated to, or devoted to, or devote a significant portion of the program to, university-level teaching and learning or the scholarship of teaching and learning. For example, a single education session at a disciplinary conference would not normally be expected to provide sufficient value. The conference should take place within 12 months of the funding award and can be either in-person or virtual. Funds may also be used for site visits or similar travel that will advance education-related initiatives.

Amount of Funding

Faculty may apply for a maximum of $1,500, and we can fund up to 5 applications. Funds can be applied toward registration fees, transportation, lodging, and meals. Costs for lodging and meals can be estimated using the federal per diem rates. We understand that in many cases, costs will exceed $1,500. Additional funds that are necessary should be provided by the recipient's department or Professional Development Account. Potential applicants are expected to ask their department head or program director for cost-sharing before applying. Many departments and programs have discretionary funds for this purpose, and Department Heads and Program Directors have been notified about this expectation. Anyone who feels uncomfortable making this request can contact Jessi Hill for assistance. If a department has no available funds, proposed costs above $1,500 will be handled on a case-by-case basis.

Application and Review Process

The application consists of an online application, link here, and an online form from your department head or program director confirming any cost-sharing arrangements, link to DH/PD form. Both are due by November 30, 2026. Applications will be reviewed by affiliates of the Morgan Teaching and Learning Center using the following criteria: 1) specificity of professional development goals related to teaching and learning; 2) alignment of goals with the conference or travel opportunity; 3) level of need (i.e., prioritization of under-resourced departments). Decisions will be announced by December 11, 2026.

Grant Obligations

Use this link for a one-page trip report summarizing progress toward goals (e.g., connections made, what was learned, and how it will be applied, planned follow-up/actions) must be submitted simultaneously with the expense report for reimbursement.

Questions? Contact us at morgan-center@wpi.edu