



Imagining America announces the availability of five \$2,500 **Critical Exchange Grants** to support visits between Imagining America member institutions. These grants are intended to enhance the exchange of knowledge and ideas between IA campuses, and to nourish the development of new partnerships and programs in keeping with IA's mission.

Critical Exchange Grants may be used by a campus to support regional meetings; to send a team to another member institution to learn more about some of its programs and collaborations; to host the leaders or team members of innovative programs or projects as consultants and guest speakers; to plan or hold joint workshops; or to develop regional collaborations. This year, we especially welcome proposals that bring several regional members together to explore how they might use the Tenure Team Initiative report recommendations or to commence work on the Assessment of Practices of Public Scholarship project. An IA Member Institution may apply for only one grant, although a single institution may be involved in more than one exchange. All Member Institutions continue to be eligible for site visits from representatives of Imagining America's national office.

Examples of winning collaborations from years past include:

- Leaders of the University of Alabama's Creative Campus Initiative met with the directors of the Ohio State University's Humanities Institute to learn more about each other's large-scale projects on community engagement and curricular innovation. The University of Alabama, which brought local business leaders with them on their visit, is using the example of Columbus's Short North Art District to advance an emerging cultural arts and economic revival plan for downtown Tuscaloosa.
- Columbia College Chicago used their grant to enhance an IA Midwest Regional Meeting focused on the issues of tenure and promotion, using the TTI report as the basis for a panel and a discussion, supplemented by site visits to community arts projects at Columbia College Chicago. The grant provided four Midwest Exchange Fellowships to support the travel of Imagining America member institution faculty who might otherwise not be able to travel to Chicago for the meeting.

Campus representatives and faculty from member institutions are welcome to consult with Imagining America's Associate Director, Juliet Feibel, in order to discuss matches with campuses that share similar interests or programs.

The grantees will be selected by a review committee on the basis of the creativity and usefulness of the exchange proposed; the range of departments and community partners involved; the clarity of intended outcomes; and the potential for institutional impact.

The application consists of a letter, not to exceed two pages, that describes the intended site visit or hosting and details the departments, faculty, administrators, community partners, and other leaders involved. Describe in some detail the desired outcomes and time-line of the exchange and its results. Please also enclose a budget outlining how the grant will be spent and any additional funds that are available for the project.

Email an electronic copy of the application to [jmhaft@syr.edu](mailto:jmhaft@syr.edu). Send a hard copy of the application to:

Imagining America  
Critical Exchange Grant Applications  
203 Tolley Building  
Syracuse University  
Syracuse, NY 13244

Applications must be post-marked no later than November 15, 2009; winners will be announced by the end of January 2010. After completion of the exchange, winners must submit to Imagining America a 1-2 page narrative describing how the money was spent and what was learned from the exchange.

For more information, contact Juliet Feibel, Associate Director, at [jufeibel@syr.edu](mailto:jufeibel@syr.edu) or at 315-416-2929.