

The Edwin O. Smith F O U N D A T I O N

P.O. Box 39
Storrs, CT 06268-0039

To: E. O. Smith Faculty and Staff
From: The Edwin O. Smith Foundation
Date: December 16, 2020

Re: Ongoing Opportunity to Submit for Excellence Opportunity Award – School Year 2020-21

The Edwin O. Smith Foundation is dedicated to enriching E. O. Smith's commitment to learning. One initiative that demonstrates this commitment is through an annual call for grant proposals that seek funding to promote opportunity and excellence for all students. A new opportunity that began in spring 2020 is the *Excellence Opportunity Award*.

The Foundation acknowledges that opportunities to enrich the student learning experience may arise at various points within the academic year yet fall outside of the annual grant mechanism. Some examples of these opportunities may include special invitations for student performances or competitions, unanticipated field trips to events that offer direct extension of learning objectives, or opportunity to bring speakers that promote mission and priorities of the school and community. As with the grant program, proposals that demonstrate creativity and innovation in advancing the student experience are desired.

**Note. The Foundation acknowledges the tremendous challenges presented in the current environment, and as such, encourages applications that can enrich the learning environment and social climate. One recently funded example includes take-home art supply kits to support visual arts education.*

Annually, it is expected that approximately \$25,000 will be made available across the course of the school year for the *Excellence Opportunity Award* initiative. The initiative is rolling throughout the academic year given expectation that that submissions are for unanticipated activities. Proposals will be accepted during the academic year, and will be reviewed upon receipt to the Foundation Board.

Additional information, including the application guidelines and an FAQ document are attached. Submissions should be submitted in electronic form (Word or PDF) to eosfoundationgrants@gmail.com.

On behalf of the Edwin O. Smith Foundation, we look forward to receiving your proposals.

Gail Bruhn Sandy Chafouleas
Chairs

Edwin O. Smith Foundation
EXCELLENCE OPPORTUNITY AWARD APPLICATION
Fiscal Year 2020-21

Title of Opportunity	
Person(s) Leading Application (Name, position)	
Other Persons Involved in Application (Names, positions)	
Opportunity Date(s)	
Total Cost of Opportunity	
Total Amount Requested from the Foundation	

Requested Deadline for Foundation Decision	
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Description of the opportunity <i>For example – what is it and why is it a significant opportunity?</i>

Expected Outcomes/Impact <i>For example – Which student population(s) are involved and how is it relevant to their learning experience? What are the expected outcomes (e.g. learning, achievement, growth), how are outcomes measured, and what is the potential long-term impact?</i>

Budget

Detail each requested category (amount, narrative justification, attach cost estimates if applicable). Explain any cost-share (e.g. portion contributed by family, school, community sources).

Check:

	If funded, I agree to submit a brief report evaluating project results (e.g. how funds were used, how objectives were met/not met, potential for broader impact, plans for next steps). The evaluation will be submitted to the Foundation within 3 months of the project end date. If the project is not able to be completed within the proposed timeline, I will submit a request (with justification) for extension.
	I have confirmed that I have discussed this application with my supervisor, and understand any implications for my department.

Signature of Applicant

Date

Frequently Asked Questions

Who is eligible to submit an application for an *Excellence Opportunity Award*?

Any faculty or staff member is eligible to apply. The applicant must be employed by EOS or in a codified EOS position such as a coach or a director (the affiliation does not require full-time employment by EOS).

What type of applications will the Foundation review?

Applications responsive to the purpose of this initiative are those requests for funds to support unanticipated opportunities with high potential to enrich the student learning experience. An unanticipated opportunity is one that arises outside of the annual grant mechanism – examples may include special invitations for student performances or competitions, unanticipated field trips to events that offer direct extension of learning objectives, or opportunity to bring speakers that promote mission and priorities of the school and community.

What can I ask for in a budget?

Appropriate budget line items include direct support for unanticipated costs associated with opportunity to demonstrate and/or enhance excellence of the Edwin O. Smith learning experience for faculty/staff and students. Budget categories relevant to direct costs are allowable – such as faculty/staff/student travel, student fees, or consultant/speaker costs. Supporting justification in the form of brief narrative is required for each item, and when applicable, cost estimates should be appended to the application.

Funding is not intended to cover supports that should fall within the regular school budget. Foundation grants are intended to supplement, not supplant, traditional public funding. Cost-share from other sources is allowable and desirable.

What are reviewers looking for in a strong application?

Responsive applications to the *Excellence Opportunity Award* initiative include requests that demonstrate the opportunity is:

- Unanticipated (direct supports that fall outside of the annual grant mechanism)
- Unique
- Prestigious
- Not covered by alternative sources

When will I receive feedback on my application?

The Foundation will make every effort to respond by the requested deadline for review.

Who can I contact to get more information?

We want your application to be successful - and are here to help answer your questions as you craft a winning proposal! For example, we are open to setting up meeting opportunities to discuss proposal ideas.

Foundation points of contact within the school include:

- Cassandra Rowett, crowett@EOSmith.org
- Shawn Santasiere, ssantasiere@EOSmith.org

Foundation points of contact outside of the school include:

- Gail Bruhn (Chair), cotuit42@yahoo.com
- Sandy Chafouleas, sandychafouleas@gmail.com