

## VT Engage: The Community Learning Collaborative

# John E. Dooley Student Engagement Grant 2017-18 Request for Proposals

Through the generosity of many donors, VT Engage is excited to request proposals for the 2017-18 John E. Dooley Student Engagement Grant (JEDSEG).

This grant funds highly motivated students or student teams planning to implement community-based civic engagement projects. There is up to \$1,500 available in this year's cycle. Either two awards of \$750 or one \$1,500 award will be granted. *The grant recipient will be announced in mid- to late April 2017.*

### Minimum eligibility criteria

1. Applications must be submitted by a current full- or part-time student at Virginia Tech.  
For student teams, a designated team leader must submit the application on behalf of the team. A student team can be an informal group or a Registered Student Organization. Undergraduate and graduate students are eligible to apply.
2. Applications submitted by JEDSEG winners from the previous year's cycle are not eligible.
3. Applications must be submitted by Friday, March 24, 2017 at 11:59 p.m.  
Late proposals will not be considered.
4. Proposed projects should be completed by May 2018.
5. The application materials must request funding for a project that reinforces VT Engage's core values:
  - **Authentic community partnership**  
We partner with communities and organizations to identify opportunities for collaborative problem solving that align with everyone's mission.
  - **Awareness of self and civic identity**  
We promote programs and opportunities that encourage participants to think about how their perspectives, biases, and values influence the work that they do.
  - **Development of active citizens**  
We strive to create opportunities for Virginia Tech students to engage with individuals, organizations, and communities to develop and enhance the practice of active citizenship.
  - **Responsible action grounded in scholarship**  
We facilitate the exchange of ideas and celebrate advances in scholarship and practice that come from bringing together the expertise of the academy and our partner

### Guidelines

1. Submit the online application and the Objectives and Outcomes Matrix to be considered.  
All budget items should be included in the matrix, regardless of funding source or relevance to objectives/outcomes.

2. If your project involves working with a community partner (e.g., a local nonprofit organization), you must submit a letter of support from the partner organization.
3. **Defining your community is up to you or your group.**  
Community can be local, regional, international, etc., but successful applicants will demonstrate a commitment to reciprocal relationships either through existing collaborative efforts or a plan that demonstrates the potential to build these relationships.

## **Application Process**

1. **View the example JEDSEG Objectives and Outcomes Matrix.**  
This will help you to understand what VT Engage expects from your own application materials, but remember that it is only a hypothetical example of a project.
2. Upload the matrix and other supporting documents into the online application.
3. Submit all materials by March 24, 2017 at 11:59 p.m.

*Note: Assessment plans that are incomplete or unclear will not be considered. If you need help drafting your assessment plan, please contact the VT Engage office. We may be able to help you develop your ideas.*

## **Reporting requirements**

JEDSEG grantees will be expected to deliver an implemented assessment plan when the project is completed or, at the latest, by May 2018. Funded projects should also prepare:

1. **A one-page narrative reflection describing the process of completing the project.**  
The narrative should detail the impacts achieved through the project on the intended community and include a reflection on challenges and lessons learned.
2. **Photographic archive of the implemented project.**  
A minimum of ten photographs documenting the project and its community impact should be submitted to VT Engage for the archive. Awardees' photographs may be used on printed and/or web materials unless specifically prohibited.
3. Grantees should expect to be in regular communication with VT Engage about the project's progress throughout the entire grant cycle.
4. **Project evaluations**  
There will be two project evaluations: a mid-term evaluation conducted in December 2017, and a final evaluation when the project is completed in May 2018.

## **For more information, contact:**

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