BASS CONNECTIONS MISSION AND GOALS

The vision of Bass Connections is to create a distinctive new model for education, exploring societal and cultural challenges through collaborative, problem-centered learning.

The goal of Bass Connections is to elevate the importance of exploring societal and cultural challenges by engaging faculty and undergraduate, professional, and graduate students in teamwork; integrating disciplinary approaches and professional practice; and applying knowledge, research, and skills in problem solving.

To achieve this goal, each Bass Connections Project Team will establish 3 core connections:

1. between the academy and the broader world
2. across areas of disciplinary expertise
3. across learner levels.

Bass Connections project teams are expected to be more than a collection of individuals working in parallel and instead should provide a dynamic collaborative environment in which all members are exposed to the diverse aspects of each project, and are working toward shared goals and efforts. A major educational goal of the program is to provide students and faculty the opportunity to collectively struggle with a real, complex problem. Problems should have a scale and scope large enough so the solution will make a significant impact and yet not be so large as to be overwhelming. Problems that are situated in an organizational setting or a community context, or that have an external client element, can be uniquely challenging and give students a glimpse into the world of professional practice.

PROJECT SELECTION CRITERIA

(a) Projects should align with the mission of Bass Connections, in particular with the three core connections (listed above) and a focus on team-based learning.

(b) Preference will be given for projects that embody the values of Bass Connections in terms of disciplinary diversity (both in leadership and students).

(c) An ideal team includes participants at multiple educational levels working toward shared goals and efforts. Project teams must include opportunities for undergraduates to participate as team members, and should propose opportunities for participation at additional learner levels (i.e., MA or PhD students, professional students, residents, post-docs, etc.).

Evaluation criteria for team progress and student performance should be worked out with the leader(s) of the relevant theme(s) after projects receive preliminary approval. (One possible mechanism for student evaluation is the assignment of course credit.)

*Opportunities this year for project proposals in all themes:

Ethical Connections: Additional Kenan Institute for Ethics/Bass Connections support is available for projects that address ethical and normative issues broadly-conceived, with priority to projects that overlap with core Kenan program areas.
Humanities Connections: The Franklin Humanities Institute offers additional support to the themes for projects that feature historical perspectives, diverse language processes and products, or aesthetic dimensions of reflection in the proposed team research projects. Applicants from any field are encouraged to develop humanities-related connections, regardless of departmental home. The FHI will facilitate connecting with potential partners to constitute interdisciplinary teams with a humanities dimension. Please see the Bass Connections “Brain & Society” theme “Art, Vision, and the Brain” team video for inspiration: http://dibs.duke.edu/education/brain-society.

Note: this proposal and selection process is separate from the Bass Chairs/Bass Society of Fellows. Information about those opportunities is available here: http://sites.duke.edu/bassfellows/.

PROJECT SELECTION TIMING

Applications will be accepted beginning October 6, 2014. Please see below for information about theme-specific deadlines and other information.

THEME-SPECIFIC INFORMATION

Most Themes (Brain & Society, Energy, Global Health, and Information, Society & Culture): Proposals must be submitted by November 7, 2014 for priority review. Proposals will be reviewed, refined if necessary, and selections will be made by December 16, 2014. Projects selected may begin as early as Summer 2015 and must begin in the 2015-2016 academic year.

Education & Human Development Theme: Proposals are accepted on a rolling basis throughout the year but are guaranteed full consideration for academic year 2015/16 if received by December 16. If you are interested in discussing ideas for potential projects, please contact the theme director Thomas Nechyba at nechyba@duke.edu. Please note that we ask that all proposals include a comment on any skills or experiences you would like to see in student applicants to your team.

Project Proposal Application Form

Please complete the following sections for the application. Applications should be submitted through the Bass Connections website at: http://bassconnections.duke.edu/content/request-proposals-bass-connections-project-teams.

1 PROJECT TITLE AND DESCRIPTION

For project proposals, please include a description of the project (a half page is sufficient) that includes:

- (a) Project goals and deliverables, (b) student learning objectives, and (c) the project’s relevance to the theme.
- How this project will further the mission of Bass Connections with respect to (1) fostering collaboration across educational levels (undergraduate, graduate/professional, postdoctoral, faculty); (2) fostering collaboration across disciplines; and (3) having an impact on a relevant societal issue, including establishing relationships with community partners, external institutions, companies, and/or government agencies.
- How you will facilitate team-based learning (and grading, evaluation, and assessment) as compared to traditional classroom-based learning.
- How does the goal of the proposed project fit with other projects that faculty team leaders are currently involved with? For example, is this project an extension of work already in progress, or
an entirely new endeavor? Does it relate to areas that team leaders are already teaching about or is it an opportunity to delve into unfamiliar content? How might this project relate to the attainment of other professional goals that team leaders might be pursuing?

- For follow-on projects (projects that were selected in the most recent round of Bass Connections projects), identify in your proposal what differentiates it from the proposal submitted last year.

### 2 TIMELINE AND MILESTONES

Identify the timeline for the project including start, completion, and major project milestones (including mid-year/mid-term milestones). Please also identify the anticipated educational experience and assessments for students, and anticipated deliverables.

Please also mention if there is any pre-project education or training for students that would be helpful for your team to have in advance to begin work on a strong footing (e.g., skill training, concepts), and identify any training and education that you are willing to help provide during the preparatory period of the project team, before team work formally begins (specific themes may provide assistance where possible).

### 3 PROJECT LEADERS

Identify the name and contact information of the project leaders/co-leaders and team contributors. All co-leaders should be actively engaged in the project and regularly attend team meetings. Team contributors would support the team as needed and occasionally attend team meetings. At least one of the project leaders/co-leaders must be a faculty member. Projects co-led by multiple team leaders from different disciplines will receive preference.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Name</th>
<th>Co-leader or Contributor?</th>
<th>Department(s)</th>
<th>Email</th>
<th>Phone</th>
</tr>
</thead>
</table>

[insert additional rows for project leaders as needed]

### 4 TEAM COMPOSITION

Identify the ideal composition of team members for your project, including: the number of students; levels of participants (undergraduate, graduate, postdoc); anticipated roles or levels of commitment for different participants (e.g., contributor, leader); and what majors, disciplines, skills, backgrounds, or perspectives you see as most relevant (the general student application period opens in January, with selection in March). Project teams must include opportunities for undergraduates to participate as team members, and should propose opportunities for participation at additional learner levels (i.e., MA or PhD students, professional students, residents, post-docs, etc.).

### 5 BUDGET ESTIMATE

Estimate a budget, if necessary, including a listing of the primary categories of support (student support, materials, travel, data collection, other). For reference, budgets for most selected projects last year fell in the range of $5,000-25,000. Programs that leverage or match funds are strongly encouraged and
these funds (both awarded and currently proposed) should be noted so that we understand the comprehensive outlay for the project. Please also note whether your project is a one-year project or has the potential to be a multi-year project, if funds were to be available. Funds awarded, however, are expected to be expended within the proposed project timeline.

If travel is included in your project and/or budget, whether in the U.S. or abroad, and you are selected as a Bass Connections project team, you will need to develop a travel plan regarding emergency communications, transportation, insurance, etc. Please see Transportation for Off-Campus Project Team Travel and Emergency Preparedness/Crisis Management Plan for Traveling Project Teams documents for more information and resources.