Request for Project Proposals (Fall 2015)

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 (e.g., 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.)

We especially welcome proposals that take advantage of the opportunities described below for this year, 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 have not previously been funded through the Kenan Institute or Bass Connections and that overlap with core Kenan program areas. If you are interested in discussing ideas for potential projects, please contact Suzanne Shanahan, Co-Director of the Kenan Institute.

• **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. See examples of previously selected projects.

(Note: The Bass Connections proposal and selection process is separate from the Bass Chairs/Bass Society of Fellows.)

**PROJECT SELECTION TIMING**

• Applications will be accepted beginning September 15, 2015.

• Proposals must be **submitted by November 6, 2015** for priority review.
  
  o Proposals will be reviewed, refined if necessary, and **selections will be made by December 18, 2015**.

  o Projects selected **may begin as early as Summer 2016 and must begin in the 2016-2017 academic year**.

• For proposals submitted to the Education & Human Development (EHD) Theme: Supplemental funding of up to $25,000 is available from the Education and Human Development Incubator (EHDi) to enhance EHD Bass Connections project teams conducting research in one or more of the following priority areas: (1) state and local community engagement; (2) higher education and the transition to adulthood; (3) educational inequality; and (4) child mental health, physical health, and social adjustment. Learn more about this opportunity [here](#).

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**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/get-involved/faculty](http://bassconnections.duke.edu/get-involved/faculty).

**1 PROJECT TITLE AND DESCRIPTION**

Please include a description of the project (**1 page or so is sufficient**) that includes:

• (a) **Project goals,** (b) **student learning objectives,** (c) **anticipated outcomes** and (d) the project’s **relevance to the theme** (see archive of [current](#) and [past](#) project teams for examples of what other projects have proposed)

• 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 past round of Bass Connections projects), identify in your proposal what differentiates it from the proposal submitted last year, along with a listing of the most important outcomes of your project so far.

2 TIMELINE AND MILESTONES

Identify the timeline (a half page is sufficient) 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, as defined below. At least one of the project leaders/co-leaders must be a faculty member.

Projects led by multiple team leaders from different disciplines will receive preference.

• Team leaders (most teams have 2-3 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.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Name</th>
<th>Title/Rank</th>
<th>Team Leader or Contributor?</th>
<th>Department(s)</th>
<th>Email</th>
<th>Phone</th>
<th>Led a Bass team before (if yes, include how many)?</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 (a half page is sufficient):

• number of students

• levels of participants (undergraduate, graduate, postdoc)
• anticipated roles or levels of commitment for different participants (e.g., contributor, leader, project manager/facilitator)

• 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 (e.g., MA or PhD students, professional students, residents, post-docs, etc.).

5 BUDGET ESTIMATE

Estimate a budget, including a listing of the primary categories of support (student support, materials, travel, data collection, other), as well as the units or people who would be responsible for administering the project funds (e.g., business managers). The budget template below provides some suggested items that can be included. For reference, budgets for most selected projects have so far fallen in the range of $5,000-25,000.

Projects 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. Multi-year thinking for project scopes is encouraged, but funding will be awarded for one year at a time, so proposals should be framed in one-year increments. Funds awarded 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 for more information and resources.

Bass Connections Project Budget Template

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Cost Category</th>
<th>Bass Connections Project Funding Request for 2016-17</th>
<th>Notes (e.g., name of personnel, activities supported)</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Payroll-allowable Categories</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>RESEARCH ASSISTANTSHIP (PHD) (suggested range: $15-18/hour)</td>
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</tr>
<tr>
<td>RESEARCH ASSISTANTSHIP (Masters/Professional) (suggested range: $12-15/hour)</td>
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<tr>
<td>INSTRUCTION (Teaching) - PHD STUDENT</td>
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<tr>
<td>POST-DOCTORAL OR STAFF EFFORT</td>
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<tr>
<td>NON-REG RANK FACULTY EFFORT</td>
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<tr>
<td>UNDERGRADUATE STUDENT STIPEND OR WORK STUDY (suggested range: $11-14/hour)</td>
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<tr>
<td>Cost Category</td>
<td>Bass Connections Project Funding Request for 2016-17</td>
<td>Notes (e.g., name of personnel, activities supported)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>-------------------------------------</td>
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<tr>
<td>Supplies &amp; Materials</td>
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</tr>
<tr>
<td>INSTRUCTIONAL, RESEARCH OR OFFICE SUPPLIES</td>
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<tr>
<td>COMPUTERS AND MINOR EQUIPMENT</td>
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<tr>
<td>Travel Expenses</td>
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<tr>
<td>TRAVEL – DOMESTIC</td>
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<td>TRAVEL – INTERNATIONAL</td>
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<tr>
<td>General Operating &amp; Other Costs</td>
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<tr>
<td>ADVERTISING AND PUBLICITY</td>
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<tr>
<td>CONTRACT WORK</td>
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<tr>
<td>PUBLIC RELATIONS</td>
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<tr>
<td>MEETINGS – BUSINESS</td>
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<tr>
<td>OTHER – MISC.</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>TOTAL Bass Connections Request</strong></td>
<td><strong>$</strong></td>
<td></td>
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</tbody>
</table>

Other Sources of Project Funds (Projects 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.)

[Source #1]

[Source #2] (add more lines as needed)