**Faculty Research on Technology Integration: Strengthening Studies and Improving Institutional Support**

**University of Tennessee, Knoxville**

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**Context/purpose of the study**

**Overview**

* Interest in how to better support faculty in the design of Project RITE research proposals
* OIT faculty fellow project (2009-2010)
* Findings can inform future calls for proposals

**Questions**

1. What are the characteristics of technology-integration research studies being proposed and conducted?
2. What support do faculty need to more effectively conduct technology-integration studies?

**Methods**

* Content analysis of 60 submitted proposals (29 funded and 31 unfunded)
* 16 item web-based questionnaire to 71 people who had submitted proposals
* 23 questionnaire respondents, all but one had received funding

**Findings**

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| **Disciplinary affiliation**   * 68% came from outside of education * 32% Education * 27% Humanities/social sciences/social work * 12% Business/computer science/health sciences * 12% Health sciences * 8% Agricultural sciences * 5% Communications * 4% Math/natural sciences | **Collaboration**   * 65% of proposals were submitted by individuals * 35% were collaborative * 25% within the same department * 10% across departments |
| **Literature review**   * 43% of the proposals included a literature review * 32% did not acknowledge any literature at all * 25% acknowledged literature but did not cite it | **Classroom contexts**   * 55% proposed studies outside of the classroom   + Recruited students as participants   + Instrument development/survey studies |
| **Distance education**   * 33% of proposals were to study issues related to distance education   + Blended or online learning components   + DE initiative at our institution | **Media comparison**   * 43% were to study a strategy implementation * 22% were designed as media comparison * 20% examined learner/instructor characteristics * 15% were tool/instrument development |
| **Research design**   * 53% quantitative * 30% mixed methods * 12% qualitative * 5% development/evaluation/action research | **Measurable outcomes**   * 60% performance outcomes * 33% satisfaction outcomes |

## 2011 Call for Proposals Project RITE (Research of Instructional Technology in Education)

## http://edtech.tennessee.edu/rite/

### Final Deliverable

### A completed, scholarly research pilot/project, presentable at a scholarly conference and/or publishable in an educational or disciplinary journal that answers a specific question about the effect of instructional technology on student learning.

### Overview

Project RITE is an opportunity for University of Tennessee Knoxville and Martin faculty to design and conduct their own research regarding the question of how instructional technology affects student learning. Participants will design research pilots/projects to measure the use and effectiveness of technologies intended to enhance both the teaching and learning process. Some examples of such technologies include multimedia presentations during class lectures, class blogging, and incorporation of varied technologies such as Course Management Systems (Online@UT), "clicker" technology, eJournals, software used to enhance learning / feedback, digital libraries, course websites, online tutorials, web-based collaboration tools (such as wikis), etc.   
  
When designing research projects, it is recommended that participants consider questions such as the following:

* What successes or failures have you experienced with incorporating technology in your classes?
* What kinds of learning does technology promote?
* Is technology helping students learn better? If so, how? If not, why?
* What learning activities will improve because of the use of technology?
* What learning abilities, attitudes, and skills are best enhanced by the use of technology?
* Which technologies are most effective in enhancing the learning process?
* How is technology best used in the classroom?
* What learning activities do not appear to be enhanced by technology?

If you use technology as a means for connecting and collaborating with students as part of the **Ready for the World** Initiative you may want to consider this as a topic for research.

### Proposal Format

Proposals should be limited to four single-spaced pages and should include discussion of each of the following five areas:

1. **The Research Problem**  
   State the problem as clearly and concisely as possible so reviewers can easily identify the proposal focus.
2. **The Project Significance**  
   The problem investigated by your research should be directly related to the larger question of how instructional technology impacts the learning process for students of higher education. Be sure to describe any significance your research may have for University of Tennessee specifically, or for higher education as a whole.
3. **The Methodology**  
   Clearly describe how the research will be carried out, the data that will be collected, and the plan for analyzing data.
4. **The Timeline**  
   Provide an estimated timeline for the research pilot/project, with a June 15, 2011 completion date.
5. **The Budget**  
   Provide a detailed budget. Funds may be used for extra service pay, to hire research assistants, for conference attendance, to purchase equipment, and so on.

**NOTE:**If you are using this opportunity to enhance funding you have already secured, please state your other funding source and indicate how Project RITE funding will augment your other project(s).

**NOTE:**If your project requires funding over the $3000 award, you may ask for additional funds. Append the requested amount to your budget and justify the significance of additional funding for your project.

### Requirements

* Proof of IRB approval must be submitted to OIT before grant funds will be transferred to participants.
* Participants may be required to blog their research experience (blog tool will be provided).
* Research project reports must be submitted for online publication by July 1, 2011.
* Participants will conduct a brief presentation on their research results at a faculty brown bag/workshop in fall 2011.
* Participants may be asked to serve on the selection committee for future Project RITE grants.