**MU Academic Technology Liaisons**

**Overview**One of the critical elements in the effective diffusion of educational innovation is having a support model that is easily accessible to the faculty member and that the instructor trusts. The MU Academic Technology Liaisons program, a new initiative administered by the MU Information Technology Committee, provides, at minimum, three years of funding for additional staff members to support incorporating technology in departments and divisions, which helps further MU’s leadership in innovative teaching and learning.

The AT liaisons:

1. Directly assist faculty, staff and students of the department, division, school, and/or college in integrating technology in teaching and learning.
2. Are supported by some matching money or in-kind equipment from the academic units involved and/or from corporate partners or other external funding sources. This should include at minimum, office space, and operating support (computer, data port, phone, office supplies, etc.) for the liaison.
3. Commit to provide concrete, measurable results within three years, such as a set number of courses developed in a fully online format. Well defined metrics have been included in the individual proposals.
4. Are cross-disciplinary in nature

The liaisons would typically support their faculty through training classes, one-on-one consulting, helping with the development and implementation of projects involving teaching with technology, and acting as liaisons between the faculty and other units. This model has been highly successful within CAFNR and Arts and Sciences. If you would like to discuss “lesson learned” with these programs, contact Marc Strid (CAFNR) or Jacquelyn Sandone (A&S).

Liaisons are:

* Full time professional staff, or graduate students, who have an educational technology background rather than an IT focus.
* Funded by the MUITC at the recommendation of the Provost.
* Are located in their local environment, and their job is to assist faculty members in effectively integrating technologies into their teaching.
* Assigned to the various schools and colleges and located in the areas they support in order to integrate themselves with the local culture and develop close working relationships with the faculty members. This location also allows them to understand the types of technologies and processes are most helpful for their faculty members and disciplines.
* Jointly managed by ET@MO and the academic unit to ensure institutional knowledge and process transfer. The funding is guaranteed for three years, contingent on a successful review at 18 months.

The purpose of the fund is to support faculty innovation in teaching and learning with technology. Certain key campus goals factor into the evaluation of applications, such as:

1. Improving overall teaching and learning.
2. Expand the availability of presently face to face courses, certificates, programs to an online format while maintaining course quality.
3. Improving student access to learning materials and/or courses.
4. Increasing student engagement and persistence.
5. Encouraging student learning beyond the classroom.

## Liaison Community

It is anticipated that the liaisons will offer a supportive community for each other. They will meet twice a month as a group to share resources, and twice a month will attend ET@MO staff meetings as well (Tuesday mornings from 9-10). There will also be scheduled training sessions on technologies such as Blackboard, Tegrity, Wimba, etc.

## Contact Info

Direct any questions you might have about the AT liaison program to Danna Vessell, Director of Educational Technologies at Missouri (ET@MO) -- Danna@missouri.edu or 882-0645. Any questions concerning fiscal operations should go to Kelly Holtkamp – holtkampk@missouri.edu or 882-4086.