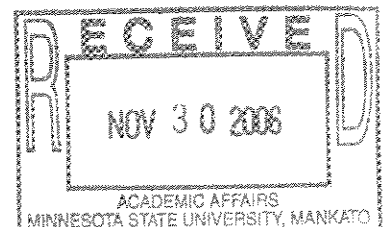


Strategic Priority Funding Application Form 2007-2008

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Project Name <u>Research Mentoring Program</u>	
Applicant's Name <u>Anne Blackhurst</u>	Mailing Address <u>AF 115</u>
Applicant Signature _____	
Email Address <u>anne.blackhurst@mnsu.edu</u>	Phone Number <u>5203</u>
Dept. Chair Signature _____	Date _____
Dean Signature <u><i>[Signature]</i></u>	Date <u>11/30/06</u>
Vice President Signature <u><i>[Signature]</i></u>	Date <u>11-30-06</u>
Date Submitted to Office of Institutional Planning: <u>November 30, 2006</u> (Deadline is November 30, 2006)	

Priority Number _____



Minnesota State University, Mankato FY08 Strategic Priority Funding Request

1. Which Strategic Priority and Objective does this funding request support? See link for Strategic Priority definitions. <http://www.mnsu.edu/president/priorities/definitions/>

Innovative Idea: Research Mentoring Program

Strategic Priority: This proposal has the potential to support a number of Strategic Priorities, including Enhancing Graduate Education (Priority 4), Enhancing Academic Excellence in Undergraduate Programs (Priority 5), and Developing Campus-wide Plans (Priority 1). In particular, the proposal supports recommendations made by the Enrollment Management Committee and the Public Relations and Marketing Committee.

2. Provide a brief description of your project. Please attach a one-page project narrative:

This project will allow newly tenured faculty who have proven records of scholarly and creative activity to serve as mentors for probationary faculty. While the mentoring relationship is intended to enhance the scholarly productivity of new faculty, the accompanying financial support will benefit newly tenured faculty mentors as well.

3. How will the funding request support the Strategic Priority?

This initiative will:

- a. Strengthen graduate education by supporting the level of faculty research that is required of a doctorate granting institution;
- b. Strengthen graduate and undergraduate programs by increasing faculty scholarship, which contributes to excellent teaching and a vibrant academic community;
- c. Enhance enrollment management efforts by raising the reputation and visibility of the institution; and
- d. Contribute to marketing and public relations efforts by differentiating MSU Mankato in the eyes of prospective students and donors.

4. Describe the measurable outcomes:

- a. Increased level of scholarship by new faculty
- b. Increased levels of collaborative and cross-disciplinary research
- c. Increased retention of new faculty (increased number of faculty who stay at MSU and apply for tenure) and increased levels of scholarship among faculty applying for full professor

5. Assessment Measures – Define what methods will be used in assessing the effectiveness of the project.

- a. Number of publications, presentations, and grant proposals by new and newly tenured faculty
- b. Feedback from participants about the strengths and weaknesses of the program in terms of promoting scholarship and scholarly productivity
- c. Retention rates of new faculty and average time-to-promotion (and quality of promotion materials) of tenured faculty

Reports Due:

6. Mid Year Report due _____ January 31, 2008

7. Summary Report due _____ June 30, 2008

8. Budget Request: From Strategic Initiative Funding

	<u>Request</u>	<u>Match</u>
Salary	_____	_____
Fringe	_____	_____
Grad Assistant	_____	_____
Grad Assistant Stipend	_____	_____
Non Salary (Specify)		
<u>Allowable Research Expenses</u>	<u>\$75,000¹</u>	_____
_____	_____	_____
_____	_____	_____
Equipment	_____	_____
Total Budget Requested *	<u>\$75,000¹</u>	_____

9. Special consideration (e.g. room, building, office or any impact on other divisions):

Pending funding.

¹ 30 faculty (15 new faculty and 15 tenured faculty) x \$2,500 = \$75,000

Strategic Priority Funding Request

Proposed Project: Research Mentoring Program for Newly Tenured and Probationary Faculty

Project Description: This project will provide structure and support for newly tenured faculty who have proven records of scholarly and creative activity to serve as mentors for probationary faculty who are in their 2nd, 3rd, or 4th years of employment at Minnesota State Mankato. While the mentoring relationship is intended to enhance the scholarly productivity of new faculty, the accompanying financial support will benefit newly tenured faculty mentors as well. The effect will be to create a culture of support for new faculty while rewarding and strengthening the research productivity of recently tenured faculty. Long-term goals include raising the scholarly productivity of Minnesota State Mankato faculty to a level commensurate with its new designation as a doctorate granting institution and raising the institution's reputation and profile.

As evident from recent market research, the quality and visibility of faculty scholarship is not only central to our capacity to offer doctoral programs, it is also a key factor in our recruitment efforts. According to market studies, it is the quality of faculty research that will differentiate Minnesota State Mankato from its competitors in the minds of prospective students. Elevating our profile as an institution will also allow us to attract more academically talented students, in addition to attracting faculty who value scholarship. In turn, the quality of both our undergraduate and our graduate programs will be strengthened. Thus, it seems clear that this proposal has the potential to advance several of the institution's strategic priorities: **enrollment management, marketing and public relations, enhancing graduate education, and enhancing academic excellence in undergraduate studies.**

Applications for the mentoring program will be solicited from recently tenured faculty (i.e., those tenured within the past 3 years) and newly hired probationary faculty (those in their 1st, 2nd, or 3rd years at MSU Mankato) during each spring and summer for participation during the following academic year. Mentors will be chosen on the basis of their own record of scholarly activity, the strength of their ongoing research agendas, their stated goals and vision for the mentoring relationship, and their plans for using the \$2,500 grant to support their continued development as scholars. To the extent possible, new faculty will be matched with mentors on the basis of research interests and disciplinary compatibility. Both mentors and new faculty will be expected to set clear goals for the mentoring relationship, establish measurable objectives, and report on the results of their mentoring relationship at the end of the academic year. In subsequent years, any funds that remained after allocating funds to new participants would be allocated to support the continuation of particularly fruitful mentoring relationships from the previous year.

Both new faculty and their mentors would receive a \$2,500 grant to support their scholarship during the program. The grant could be used as seed money for new research projects, to pay student research assistants, to pay for research-related travel, or for other allowable expenditures. Additional support will be provided through periodic workshops on such topics as writing grant proposals, internal and external funding opportunities, and finding publication outlets.

* Note: Selecting faculty who have been at Minnesota State Mankato at least one year will ensure that this program does not interfere with the mentoring program administered through CETL. It will also give new faculty time to establish themselves as teachers before participating in the Research Mentor Program.