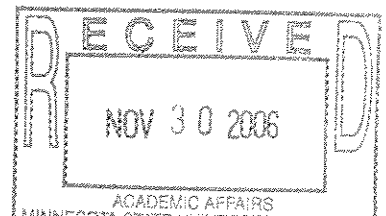


Strategic Priority Funding Application Form 2007-2008

6

Project Name _____ Distinguished Scholars Program _____	
Applicant's Name _____ Anne Blackhurst _____	Mailing Address _____ AF 115 _____
Applicant Signature _____	
Email Address _____ anne.blackhurst@mnsu.edu _____	
Phone Number _____ 5203 _____	
Dept. Chair Signature _____	Date _____
Dean Signature _____ <i>A. Blackhurst</i> _____	Date _____ 11/30/06 _____
Vice President Signature _____ <i>S. J. J.</i> _____	Date _____ 11-30-06 _____
Date Submitted to Office of Institutional Planning: _____ November 30, 2006 _____	
(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: Distinguished Scholar Program

Strategic Priority: This proposal has the potential to support both Strategic Priority 4, Enhancing Graduate Education, and Strategic Priority 5, Enhancing Academic Excellence in Undergraduate Programs.

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

This program would select three tenured full professors per year as Distinguished Scholars. Once selected as a Distinguished Scholar, recipients would maintain the distinction for the remainder of their careers at Minnesota State University. In addition to the distinction, recipients would be honored at an annual luncheon and research colloquium and would receive a \$5,000 stipend in the year of their selection.

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 enhancing faculty scholarship, which contributes to excellent teaching and a vibrant academic community;
- c. Ensure tenured full professors remain intellectually vital;
- d. Provide a core group of senior scholars who can mentor younger faculty and serve as role models for the value of scholarship.

4. Describe the measurable outcomes:

- a. Increased level of scholarship by mid-career and senior faculty

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

- a. Quality and number of applications and nominations submitted each year (a measure of whether being named a Distinguished Scholar is truly seen as a distinction and attracts the highest quality scholars)
- b. Number of publications, presentations, and grant proposals by mid-career and senior faculty
- c. Quality of presentations and attendance at the annual research colloquium
- d. Increase in the quality and utilization of CESR programs

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	\$15,000 ¹ _____	_____
Fringe	_____	_____
Grad Assistant	_____	_____
Grad Assistant Stipend	_____	_____
Non Salary (Specify)		
Recognition activities and research colloquium	_____	_____ \$5,000
_____	_____	_____
_____	_____	_____
Equipment	_____	_____
 Total Budget Requested *	 \$15,000_____	

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

None

*Pending funding.

¹ 3 Distinguished Scholars x \$5,000 each

Strategic Priority Funding Request

Proposed Project: Distinguished Scholar Program

Project Description: This project would target tenured, full professors whose body of scholarship and current level of scholarly activity warranted distinction within the university community. Three faculty members would be named Distinguished Scholars each year and, in the initial year of their appointments, each would receive a stipend of \$5,000. Once named a Distinguished Scholar, recipients would maintain the distinction for the remainder of their tenure at Minnesota State University, Mankato. Distinguished Scholars would be recognized on the University website and at an annual research colloquium, at which new Distinguished Scholars would be named and a select number of current Distinguished Scholars would present their scholarship. Distinguished Scholars would also serve as a resource for the Director of the Center for Excellence in Scholarship and Research (CESR) by serving two-year terms on a Research Advisory Board for the Center.

This program is designed to address a significant void in the current system of support and recognition for faculty scholarship: Namely, the failure to provide incentives and recognition for tenured full professors who maintain active scholarly agendas. Such recognition will be central to changing the faculty culture at Minnesota State Mankato, which has a relatively high proportion of mid-career faculty who have already attained the highest status available through the formal tenure and promotion processes. Recognizing senior faculty who exemplify the value of scholarship and ongoing commitment to scholarly activity will ultimately increase the number of faculty who can serve as role models and mentors for new faculty and students. At the same time, it may decrease the number of faculty who become complacent about their scholarship as their careers progress.

Though this project is envisioned as an ongoing, permanent addition to the array of programs rewarding and supporting scholarship at MSU, it is being proposed as a one-time Strategic Priority Initiative. During the first year of the program, which will serve as a pilot, the Dean of Graduate Studies and Research will work with staff in the Development Office to pursue private funds to support the program in perpetuity. Given the small annual cost of the program (\$15,000), an endowment of \$300,000 would provide a donor with the opportunity to have his or her name associated with the program. Until private funds could be secured, the College of Graduate Studies and Research would commit to funding the program after Year 1.

As noted in the other research-related proposals from the College of Graduate Studies and 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 and our efforts to increase the quality of our academic programs. As a result, 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.**