A Call for Pre-Proposals to pilot faculty-designed collaboration among liberal arts colleges and research universities --
A partnership of the Associated Colleges of the Midwest (ACM) and the Committee on Institutional Cooperation (CIC) aimed at Enhancing the Midwest Knowledge Ecosystem (EMKE) [http://www.acm.edu/EMKE]
Deadline for submission is 11:59 p.m. Central Time, June 30, 2015.

Overview
This Call for Pre-Proposals (1-2 pages) invites ideas from ACM and CIC faculty teams interested in designing and piloting ways for liberal arts colleges and research universities to collaborate in the areas of digital humanities (DH) or sharing languages (SL), including, but not limited to, less commonly taught languages.

The liberal arts colleges of the ACM and the research universities of the CIC seek to help their faculty explore ways to enhance teaching, learning, and research in DH or SL through collaborations among colleagues across both ACM and CIC institutions. Funding can be used to help faculty gain perspectives from the other institutions and teaching environments, to create cross-consortial learning communities that will contribute to personal and professional development, to expand resources available to faculty through sharing, and so on. Successful projects will bring new resources to the classrooms and research initiatives of participating faculty and also share the results with colleagues.

Selected Pre-Proposals will be invited to compete for funds up to $42,450 that will be awarded in October 2015.

Background
The Call for Pre-Proposals emerges from a series of discussions by faculty from both the ACM (www.acm.edu) and the CIC (www.cic.net) designed to explore the potential for collaboration by faculty at liberal arts colleges and research universities. Those conversations in 2013 and 2014 were funded by the Mellon Foundation and named "Enhancing the Midwest Knowledge Ecosystem" in reference to a regionally-integrated vision of higher education articulated by the former Chancellor of the University of Michigan. (More information is at http://www.acm.edu/EMKE.)

The discussions led to a recommendation to create a mechanism to fund faculty-designed initiatives to collaborate across the two sectors, giving priority to two areas. One is to support partnerships in the burgeoning field of the digital humanities. The other is to support creative ways to share

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1 The ACM institutions include Beloit College, Carleton College, Coe College, Colorado College, Cornell College, Grinnell College, Knox College, Lake Forest College, Lawrence University, Luther College, Macalester College, Monmouth College, Ripon College and St. Olaf College. The CIC institutions include the University of Chicago, the University of Illinois, Indiana University, the University of Iowa, the University of Maryland, the University of Michigan, Michigan State University, the University of Minnesota, the University of Nebraska-Lincoln, Northwestern University, Ohio State University, Penn State University, Purdue University, Rutgers University, and the University of Wisconsin-Madison.

languages across campuses, especially for languages where student interest and teaching resources are not matched, or lack critical mass, on individual campuses. The Foundation has authorized the ACM and CIC to use the modest funds remaining from that planning grant of $42,450 to pilot competitively-funded faculty initiatives for collaboration across the two consortia in these two areas.

**Process**

A selection committee of senior academic officials from institutions in both consortia will review the Pre-Proposals. The most promising among them will be invited to submit Full Proposals by September 30. The committee will award funds ranging from $5,000 to a maximum of $42,450 to one or more projects in October 2015.

In promoting faculty development through collaboration across consortia, the ACM and CIC committee will give priority to pilot initiatives that take the first steps to:

- Create infrastructure in digital humanities (DH) for collaborative, cross-sector professional development, building faculty capacity to jointly develop locally-initiated and centered digital humanities projects; or
- Demonstrate collaborative partnerships and initiatives that create new models for teaching and learning across the ACM and CIC consortia that enhance opportunities for students to reach more advanced levels of language proficiency through shared languages (SL); and
- Disseminate the models for collaboration and sharing that are developed so that they can be replicated by other institutions in the two consortia as well as in other sets of institutions nationwide.

Competitive projects will aim to create structures that aggregate and share resources in addressing common challenges.

The bi-consortial Selection Committee will determine the strength of the Pre-Proposals by assessing the extent to which the proposed project:

- Involves one or more institutions from each of the two consortia, with a lead institution identified from each consortium;
- Identifies an opportunity or challenge related to teaching, learning, or research in the digital humanities (DH) or sharing languages (SL);
- Outlines a collaborative initiative designed to address that opportunity or challenge in a sustainable manner.

Subsequent consideration of Full Proposals will also assess whether the project:

- Builds on and gives visibility to existing innovations, with an eye toward the application and/or extension of those applications to the future;
- Creates partnerships with colleagues who are facing similar issues;
- Engages undergraduates through pedagogical applications or undergraduate research; and
- Leads to tangible, shareable structures and financially sustainable outcomes that can be disseminated and replicated both across the two consortia and nationally.

By mid-July, the bi-consortial EMKE Steering Committee will identify the most promising Pre-Proposals, inviting their authors to submit full proposals by September 30, 2015. The Committee will decide which among those to fund, by mid-October, 2015.
**Instructions for Submitting EMKE Pre-Proposals**

- Prior to preparing a Pre-Proposal, each participating faculty member should talk with the Academic Dean and/or Faculty Development Liaison on his/her campus to ensure that the proposed project is consistent with institutional priorities. If selected to move to the full proposal phase, a letter confirming the backing and support of the Academic Dean or Provost will be a required component of the final submission package.
- Please feel free to contact ACM Vice President for Faculty Development and Grant Programs, Brian Williams (312-561-5922 or bwilliams@acm.edu) or CIC Associate Director, Amber (Marks) Cox (217-265-8106 or aemarks@staff.cic.net), to receive advice for developing your ideas in conjunction with the funding parameters.
- Complete a Pre-Proposal application through the online portal at projects.acm.edu by answering a series of prompts outlined below.

**Prompts for Pre-Proposals (go to projects.acm.edu to respond to these prompts)**

- **Title for the Proposed Project**
- **Leadership Team:** List the name, college, discipline, and email of each of participating faculty member, which must include at least one faculty member from both an ACM and CIC institution.
- **Abstract/synopsis:** Provide a brief description of the project, including the problem it seeks to address, the goals it aims to achieve, and a description of the major activities in which the project participants will engage to achieve those goals. (up to 250 words)
- **EMKE Goals of Promoting Faculty Development through Collaboration and Innovation:** A description of the relationship of the project to the broad EMKE goals to foster collaboration among ACM and CIC faculty to address opportunities or challenges faculty see in DH or SL. (up to 200 words)
- **Dissemination:** Describe how the project would share learning and outcomes, especially on ACM and CIC campuses. (up to 250 words)

Completed Pre-Proposals must be submitted through the online application portal at projects.acm.edu on or before 11:59 p.m. CST on June 30, 2015.