Medical University of South Carolina
Maralynne D. Mitcham Interprofessional Fellowship
for Faculty and Staff
May 2016

Rationale

The Maralynne D. Mitcham Interprofessional Fellowship for Faculty and Staff is supported through the Office of Interprofessional Initiatives to advance the vision and reputation of the Medical University of South Carolina as expressed in the Imagine MUSC 2020 Strategic Plan. The fellowship speaks directly to enhancing the interprofessional/interdisciplinary theme of the strategic plan and serves to strengthen it. Promoting faculty and staff development in a collaborative manner will model and distill the essence of interprofessional activity and generate scholarly contributions to the literature. Further, the fellowship emboldens the existing interprofessional initiatives and prepares the next generation of leaders in interprofessional education, research, practice, and administration. The fellowship is named for Maralynne D. Mitcham, PhD to honor her innovative work on campus and nationally with interprofessional education and faculty mentoring.

Purpose

The purpose of the Maralynne D. Mitcham Interprofessional Fellowship is to prepare university faculty and staff to successfully assume new roles in interprofessional education, research, practice, and/or administration. The program seeks to foster people who demonstrate interprofessional competencies that span multiple disciplines and contexts. Further, the fellowship strives to enrich collaborative learning experiences and scholarship among the MUSC community, including its students, thereby supporting a deeper level of interprofessional engagement and integration.

Design

The Interprofessional Fellowship is designed to reflect a cyclical process of developing new knowledge and skills, engaging in interprofessional collaboration, and influencing its integration into everyday work. In each phase of the fellowship, participants will engage in a variety of formative and summative activities that strengthen their professional development and leadership abilities. Harnessing the growing network of expertise across the campus in a variety of contexts such as classroom instruction, simulation technology, research, clinical practice, and community outreach, a cohort of 2 fellows per year for a 12-month experience will be selected, each of whom will receive a $5,000 stipend.

Fellowship Requirements

The Maralynne D. Mitcham Interprofessional Fellowship will consist of three major components: 1) acquisition of new knowledge and skills, 2) engagement in interprofessional collaboration, and 3) integration of experiences gained into everyday work. The conceptual framework below details the learning process within the fellowship experience. Participants will be expected to engage in a variety of activities that may include but are not limited to co-leading or leading seminars and discussions, reading and applying best practices from the literature, shadowing experts, participating as a small group facilitator in IP 710 Transforming Health Care for the Future (the university’s required interprofessional course), offering a new IP elective course, participating in a monthly interprofessional mentoring circle, working in close collaboration with at least one peer mentor outside of their profession or discipline and one “master” interprofessional mentor. Participants are also required to complete an integrative project that has potential
to impact education, research, practice and/or administration here at MUSC and to contribute to the scholarly literature.

**Eligibility**

- Full time employee of MUSC; faculty member or staff member in leadership position
- Evidence of prior interprofessional experience in education, research, practice, or administration

**Fellowship Period:**

July 1, 2016, to June 30, 2017

**Funding**

The funding amount is $5000. Two fellowships will be awarded per year. We strongly encourage the applicant’s Department/Unit or College to provide matching funds. Although provision of matching funds is not mandatory, it is recommended to expand the opportunities available for various activities associated with the fellowship. Likewise, the recipient may need to pay for expenses that exceed the amount to take full advantage of mentoring opportunities. Funding cannot be used for equipment.

**Required Application Materials**

1. Completed application form
2. Letter of intent to include the following components:
   - Outline of why the Fellowship is of professional interest to the applicant (1/2 page);
   - Statement of overarching goals and desired learning outcomes related to interprofessional practices;
     - General plan of activities for the year, including how funding will be used; (2 pages)
   - Statement of anticipated short-term benefit and long-term value of their work during their fellowship year. (1/2 page)
3. Two letters of support: one from the immediate supervisor, and one from a peer who can speak to the applicant's potential and capacity for developing interprofessional work
4. Curriculum Vitae

**Selection Criteria**

1. Clarity and strength of letter of application and its ability to articulate the following:
   a. Strong desire to excel in interprofessional practices
   b. Likelihood for promoting new or enhanced interprofessional practice(s)
   c. Potential for dissemination and enhancement of the Imagine MUSC 2020 Strategic Plan goal related to interprofessional/interdisciplinary practices
   d. Strength of general plan of activities for the year.
   e. Strength of justification of short-term benefit and long-term value of their work
2. Strength of letter of recommendation from immediate supervisor
3. Strength of recommendation from a peer

**Submission of Application Materials**

All application materials must be received no later than 5:00 PM, June 3, 2016. Incomplete applications will not be evaluated. Please submit all required materials as one pdf file in the order outlined in the section, “Required Applications Materials” via e-mail to Sarah Velasco (velasco@musc.edu).

The fellowship recipients will be announced no later than June 20, 2016. Questions regarding the application process or fellowship program should be directed to the fellowship director, Dr. Ron Acierno (acierno@musc.edu).
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Conceptual Framework for the Maralynne D. Mitcham Interprofessional Fellowship</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>Intended learning outcomes</strong></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Integration</strong></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Engagement</strong></td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Development</strong></td>
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