

A Proposal to Grants for Professional Development in Teaching

Objectives

- i) To implement digital technology in student's learning
- ii) To assess the impact of students learning in this technology

Description of the project

My teaching load is expected to be higher in 2013 spring semester, since I will offer a new course in Sustainable Food and Farming program in Stockbridge School of Agriculture. Students majoring in sustainable food and farming are expected to enroll in PLSOILIN 290E "Organic weed control". For this class, I would like to use electronic medium for power point presentations, including potential use of touch screen technology.

In my regular undergraduate teaching, I will continue to offer courses with emphasis on experimental learning in laboratory and discussions sections. It is becoming more important to use digital technology for identification of weed species throughout our professional expertise. The use of computers in digital technology for weed identification will continue to grow as I plan to expand interactive computer based learning in laboratory sessions. It is important that students in my class have the opportunity to learn this new digital technology for identification of common weeds, including many invasive species. This type of new learning experience will enhance the students' ability to adapt to their future work environments.

I plan to travel for the Joint Annual Meeting of the Weed Science Society of America and Northeastern Weed Science Society, February 4-7, 2013, Baltimore, MD. I hope to attend a session on "Using social media delivering timely information to students". Learning steps/techniques involved in the proposed session would be of help to me as a teacher for all of my classes. Also, it would help to determine the impact of electronic media in class room teaching.

Implementation procedures

The **XID** program will be introduced to students in each of the laboratory sessions. The students will have an easy access to use interactive key. With this, the students will be able to access color photos of 1200 species of 48 states and Canada. This program has extensive references with page numbers to over 50 of the most commonly used weed reference book in North America. The students will have an access to a fully illustrated glossary of botanical terminology.

A searchable state/province level geography menu will be available to students to reduce the database to those species found in individual student's area.

Proposed Funding Request

i)	Laptop computer	\$2,000.00
ii)	Software program - XIDServices (Weed Identification Interactive DVD) (\$90.00 each; for 5 computers)	\$450.00
iii)	Travel to enhance knowledge in weed ecology and for multimedia uses	\$500.00
<hr/> Total amount		\$2,950.00

My travel includes only airfare to Baltimore, MD for the joint conference.

Note: I have been awarded a Flex Grant of \$450.00 as registration fee for the Joint Conference.