

Minnesota State Colleges and Universities



Educational Innovations – Academic and Student Affairs

Innovation Funding aka “Shark Tank”

Funding Availability

Minnesota State Colleges and Universities seeks to support student, faculty, and staff innovation that shows great potential for improving teaching, learning, or other core academic objectives.

Funding up to \$25,000 is available to individual innovators or teams who are currently enrolled in or employed by a MnSCU college or university.



Purpose

Funded projects will aim to address obstacles to student success by using existing technologies, resources, or practices in innovative ways. Priority will be given to innovations that align with the Charting the Future work plan and explicitly address reducing the opportunity/achievement gap.

Design

Individuals or teams of student, staff, and faculty innovators submit an *Intention to Pitch* an innovation. In the spirit of the television show “Shark Tank,” those selected compete for funding by pitching their innovative practice or process to an “investor panel” (MnSCU educators, legislators, business and non-profit community members). In preparation for the pitch, individuals or teams will complete a *Pitch Documentation* packet for the panel to review in advance and will be offered a presentation coach to help them prepare for the pitch.

Timeline and Process

December 23, 2015	<i>Intention to Pitch</i> Innovation is due
January 20, 2016	Selected proposers are invited to pitch the innovation in April
March 25, 2016	<i>Pitch Documentation</i> packets are due Pitch Presentation coaches are assigned
April 14, 2016	Presenters pitch innovations to an “investor” panel and a guest audience
May 13, 2016	Innovation Funding recipients are notified and receive feedback from the investor panel
May 30, 2016	Innovation Mentors assigned to assist innovators in development and evaluation
July 27, 2016	Innovators offer progress report and receive feedback at eLearning Summit
August 26, 2016	Innovations implemented with evaluation measures embedded
February, 2017	Innovators present outcomes at ASA Technology Council meeting
April, 2017	Innovators present at showcase event

Additional details and application directions can be found at the [ASA Newsletter](#).