

Call for Applications Distinguished Teaching Humanist

Since 1992, the **National Endowment for the Humanities (NEH)/Harry Jack Gray Teaching Enhancement Grant** has funded the appointment of a **Distinguished Teaching Humanist**, who is recruited from the ranks of the University of Hartford faculty. The eligibility, responsibilities, and benefits of the position are summarized below, followed by explanations of the nomination and subsequent application procedures with their separate deadlines.

Eligibility: All full-time tenured faculty, clinical/applied faculty who have successfully undergone their comprehensive review, and extended temporary contract (ETC) faculty who have successfully undergone their sixth-year review at the University of Hartford, who can demonstrate interest in and activity relevant to improving teaching in some area of the humanities as defined in the founding language of the NEH, are eligible. *The term "humanities" includes, but is not limited to, the study of the following: language, both modern and classical; linguistics; literature; history; jurisprudence; philosophy; archeology; comparative religion; ethics; the history, criticism, and theory of the arts; those aspects of social sciences which have humanistic content and employ humanistic methods; and the study and application of the humanities to the human environment with particular attention to reflecting our diverse heritage, traditions, and history and to the relevance of the humanities to the current conditions of national life.*

Responsibilities: The Distinguished Teaching Humanist (DTH) will enliven teaching and improve pedagogy in the humanities at the University of Hartford. The DTH will have considerable discretion and opportunity to innovate in the pursuit of this mission. Several initiatives are prescribed on an annual basis. The DTH will:

- Provide leadership for intellectual content and administration of all aspects of the Distinguished Visiting Professor (DVP) program;
- Manage the selection process and convene the selection committee for the Distinguished Visiting Professor;
- Select participants from the University and local high schools, oversee payment of participant stipends, and organize the DVP's travel and accommodations;
- Partner with the Distinguished Visiting Professor to create the intellectual substance of the summer workshop as well as its planning and implementation, and possibly to share in some of the teaching;
- Facilitate the summer workshop participants' efforts to translate exciting current ideas in the humanities into effective undergraduate and high school pedagogy through follow-up activities in the following academic year.

In addition, the DTH will:

- Conduct workshops on pedagogical issues of general concern for University faculty at least once a semester;
- Consult with individual faculty members and visit and critique their classes upon their request;
- Manage the selection process and convene the selection committee for the Innovations in Teaching and Learning Award. Oversee payments of the awards.

As stipulated in the original grant application, the Distinguished Teaching Humanist may have a term of one or two years.

Responsibilities of Distinguished Teaching Humanist, administrative detail: The DTH reports to the dean of the College of Arts and Sciences and consults with the dean on a regular basis with respect to programming, budget, the choice of DVP and of the next DTH. In addition to the duties and activities listed above, the DTH is responsible for the following administrative details:

1. Administer funds (with clerical assistance) for the various programs provided by the grant (honoraria, travel expenses, etc.);

2. Administer and publicize summer workshops, including recruitment and selection of attendees;
3. Arrange accommodations, meals, etc. for DVP and participants in summer workshop.

Benefits: In addition to the honor of the title, the DTH receives an annual course load reduction of three courses per year, and an annual stipend of \$10,000 in addition to their regular salary. The grant also provides funds for clerical assistance and other expenses.

Nominations: Individuals must be nominated in order to apply for the position, although individuals may nominate themselves. Anyone wishing to nominate either a colleague or themselves should make the nomination in the form of a letter addressed to **Katherine Black, Dean of the College of Arts and Sciences**. The nomination letter should state simply and briefly why this person is appropriate for the position and be sent to the **A&S Dean's Office by email to pamasi@hartford.edu**. Those nominated by colleagues will then be asked by the A&S dean if they wish to be considered. Again, any full-time tenured faculty member, clinical/applied faculty member who has successfully undergone their comprehensive review, or extended temporary contract (ETC) faculty member who has successfully undergone their sixth-year review at the University of Hartford whose work is relevant to teaching in the humanities is eligible for consideration. **Deadline for receipt of nominations: April 1, 2022.**

Applications: Applications to be submitted by the nominee must include the following and are due to the A&S Dean's Office (pamasi@hartford.edu) on April 22, 2022. It would be best if all materials are submitted as one PDF.

- A 2-3 page letter in which the candidate (1) explains their teaching interest/s in the humanities, with specific reference to the NEH definition, above, and (2) reflects on their own philosophy and practice of teaching.
- **Proposal for activities the candidate would undertake to advance teaching in the humanities, in keeping with the University's strategic plan or key priorities.** The proposal should also specify whether the candidate is requesting a one or two-year term as DTH.
- A teaching portfolio or dossier, including but not limited to (1) CV; (2) student evaluations, peer reviews, reports of class visitations, or testimony of team-teachers; (3) syllabi detailing methods and grading procedures; (4) products of good teaching, such as student essays, student publications on course-related work, etc.; (5) teaching honors, recognitions, and relevant publications.

Process and criteria of selection: The selection committee shall include three faculty from the College of Arts and Sciences, two of whom are in the humanities division; one faculty representative from another college at the University of Hartford; the current DTH; and the dean of the College of Arts and Sciences or designee. **The committee will review all applications and select the DTH by May 13, 2022.**

Each application will be judged primarily on how well it argues the candidate's potential to enhance teaching and learning in the humanities, with attention to "intellectual quality, quality of design, and potential for significant impact" (adapted from NEH procedures for its Education Development and Demonstration Program) and in keeping with the University's strategic plan or key priorities. Evidence of the candidate's distinction as a teacher in any field will also weigh in the committee's decision.