



Productivity and Innovation Fund Proposal Form

PART 1 – PROJECT OVERVIEW

Productivity and Innovation Fund Proposal Type

Institutional	Multi-institutional
<p>Priority Area of Focus:</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> 1. Program Prioritization</p> <p><input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 2. Course(s)/Program Redesign:</p> <p style="padding-left: 20px;"><input type="checkbox"/> Foundational or Introductory Course(s) or Program(s)</p> <p style="padding-left: 20px;"><input type="checkbox"/> Experiential Learning</p> <p style="padding-left: 20px;"><input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Teaching Quality</p>	<p>Priority Area of Focus:</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> 1. Program Prioritization</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> 2. Course(s)/Program Redesign:</p> <p style="padding-left: 20px;"><input type="checkbox"/> Foundational or Introductory Course(s) or Program(s)</p> <p style="padding-left: 20px;"><input type="checkbox"/> Experiential Learning</p> <p style="padding-left: 20px;"><input type="checkbox"/> Teaching Quality</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> 3. Administrative Services Delivery Transformation</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> Teaching Evaluation (System wide proposal only)</p>

Project Name

Expand Degree Completion Program for College Diploma Students in Business to Smaller Sites

Lead Organization & Contact Information

Organization: Nipissing University
Contact Name: Dr. Harley d'Entremont
Title: Vice President, Academic and Research
Telephone: 705-474-3450 ext 4254
Email: harleyd@nipissingu.ca

Partner Institutions – *If the proposal is multi-institutional, list all partner institutions, including contact information, participating in this proposal. Proposals must include a letter of support from each partner.*

Although this is an institutional based proposal, the successful outcome for this project will depend on significant interactions with a number of Ontario Community Colleges.

Executive Summary – *provide a brief overview of the proposed project, the project goals and the expected outcomes. This section should also include the proposal's alignment to the Fund's overall goals and objectives. (Maximum 500 words)*

The proposed project would be to evaluate how to use technology-enabled learning to continue to expand and enhance the BComm College Partnership Program (CPP). The BComm CPP has become a cornerstone for College Transfer student admissions into the School of Business, contributing significantly to its growth and increasing the presence of the university in southern Ontario markets. The program uses a unique blended delivery model that enables three-year college business

diploma graduates the opportunity to complete their degree in 12 months through a combination of both online and in-class instruction. In-class components are offered on the partner college campuses which means students are not required to relocate.

The program currently boasts partnerships with five Ontario colleges. A number of other colleges have expressed interest in the program however due to a smaller number of interested students at these locations, these partnerships have not been financially viable to pursue. To continue on a path of growth and expand opportunities to students in underserved areas, funding from the Productivity and Innovation Fund would be used to test and evaluate synchronous online courses that would connect students from across Ontario and perhaps Canada into virtual classrooms. Redesigning the BComm program to include more synchronous online courses would enable the School of Business to take on additional partner locations without undue financial burden.

Funding Request

PART 2 – PROPOSAL REQUIREMENTS (Maximum 6 pages)

Total Productivity and Innovation Fund Request Amount	\$ 75,000
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- 1. Proposal Summary** - Provide a detailed description of the undertaking, the scope and purpose of the project, including the specific activities that will be undertaken. Provide a work plan with a schedule of key activities and target dates for completion. Activities should be completed by March 31, 2014 to be eligible for funding.

A project leader will be engaged to initially explore the possibilities with college partners determining their interest in participating without significant financial risk in a test to bring the CPP concept to students from smaller colleges. In the past, Nipissing has made a number of approaches and has been approached by smaller community colleges to pursue the CPP degree completion program. To date, the current program delivery model has not allowed the potential partners to successfully implement a program. The project lead will develop alternative model deliveries. These will be explored with institutions where previous contact has discussions have gone on. Where there are opportunities, the project lead will test the alternative synchronous course delivery methods. Surveys and focus groups will be used to assess the effectiveness of technology and course delivery. The findings and recommendations will be summarized and shared with internal and external audiences.

Work Plan

Activity	Budget
Hire a consultant or allocate existing staff	Upon receipt of funding

as project lead	
Identify and secure participants to test and evaluate synchronous online courses delivery	October/November 2013
Test technology with sample population	December 2013
Develop and administer survey to evaluate effectiveness of technology/course delivery	January 2013
Analyze findings and make final recommendations	January 2013
Share key findings with participants and broader education sector	February 2014

2. **Innovation & Productivity** - *Identify the innovative aspects (ideas, systems, processes) of the proposed project. Describe how the approach improves productivity in areas that are central to the institution's mandate and mission to enable financial sustainability over the long term.*

Expanding the BComm CPP program using technology enabled-learning would support Nipissing's focus on teaching and would make the program more sustainable as it would be less dependent on existing partner colleges to drive enrolment. If successful, this project will allow students in under serviced areas to feasibly participate in degree completion programs.

3. **Project Outcomes** - *Link the program goals with expected outcomes to be achieved, including any metrics for measuring improvements to the student experience. Identify a process for evaluating the effectiveness of the project, including any KPIs, institution-specific surveys, cost-savings and/or cost avoidance etc. Identify targets for measurable outcomes and a process for reporting on them, and any risk mitigation strategies for project completion and achieving outcomes.*

This project would result a key deliverable: a set of recommendations on the best way to virtually link small clusters of students in order to deliver the BComm CPP in more locations.

The success of the project would be evaluated in a number of ways including satisfaction rates among participating students, and through the amount of cost-savings that would result from using technology more heavily for course delivery. Additionally, retention rates and employment rates of students post-graduation would be another benchmark that could be used to measure the success of the project.

Potential obstacles in undertaking this project could include the short timeline in which to conduct the reviews and make recommendations; however this risk can be mitigated by having the consultant develop and adhere to a strict project management timeline.

Another potential obstacle could include securing participants to take part in the testing of an online synchronous course. This risk can be mitigated by approaching colleges that have previously showed an interest in joining the CPP program.

4. **Partnerships & Knowledge Sharing** - Describe the nature and importance of each partner institutions' contribution to the project. Describe how the project will leverage partnerships to achieve the Fund's goals and enhance collaboration, and the potential for replication. Indicate how results and best practices will be shared with the postsecondary community.

The premise of this project requires interaction and participation with a number of Ontario Community Colleges. The success of the project will depend on the quality of that participation. The findings will be relevant to and would be shared with such bodies as ONCAT and OCAV.

5. **Project Cost** – Provide a detailed project budget that itemizes how funding will be allocated. Include activities that may be funded through other means.

Activity	Budget
Engage Consultant	\$40,000
Staff time – VP Academic and Research, AVP Academic, Dean and Director	\$80,000
Release time for Academic Staff	\$12,000
Staff time – Institutional Planning	\$10,000
Staff time - Finance Office	\$10,000
Staff time – Communications	\$10,000
Website construction for survey administration	\$10,000
Misc	\$ 5,000
Total Project Budget (2013-14)	\$177,000

Proposed Revenue Source(s) – Identify any other funding sources and/or in-kind contributions.

Proposed Funding Source(s)	Amount of Funding
MTCU Productivity and Innovation Fund	\$75,000
Internal Resources	\$102,000
Total Project Budget (2013-14)	\$177,000

Describe how activities will be sustained beyond the 2013-14 fiscal year and/or an ongoing basis.

The recommendations from this review will be used to plan future course and program offerings which will be resourced from departmental funds.

6. **Cost-Savings or Cost-Avoidance Strategy** – Describe the cost savings strategy for this project. Identify projected cost-savings, potential for ongoing savings beyond 2013-14, and associated timelines.

Access to the funding under this program allows the university to explore alternative program delivery models with reduced financial risk. The information gathered and recommendation made from this project will properly inform decisions necessary to ensure the quality programming within the School of Business.

7. **Potential for Scalability (Updated August 2013)** – Describe, if any, the potential for this proposal to be funded at a reduced scale. This section must indicate changes to any activities, outcomes, timelines, and funding requested in the scaled down version.

Although there will be flexibility in the scope of the surveys and focus group engagement, with the timelines for the PIF, it would be challenging to prepare meaningful recommendations if the scope for information gathering is significantly reduced.

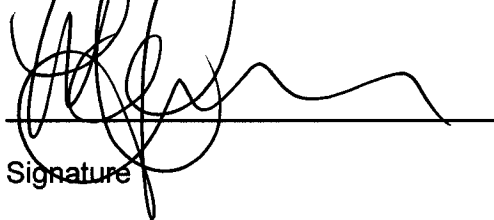
Part 3 – PROPOSAL SUBMISSION

Institution and multi-institutional proposals should be submitted electronically on or before **September 30, 2013** through the Secure File Transfer website.

Applicant Signatures

Proposals must be approved by the President/Executive Head or Designate of the lead organization and must include his/her signature.

- Signed letters of support from partner organization are attached to this proposal.



Signature

Dr. Michael DeGagné
President, and Vice Chancellor

30/09/2013
Date