



Faculty in Residence Program

Application for Fall & Spring 20-21 Placements

Due Friday, March 13, 2020

Submit Application via email to Department Chair, copying AWinkels@buffalo.edu

Purpose

In an effort to expand and enhance existing collaborations the University at Buffalo maintains in Western New York and throughout the state, the Graduate School of Education (GSE) sustains a Faculty in Residence (FIR) program to provide additional opportunities for University at Buffalo Graduate School of Education Faculty and local community-based educational institutions (CBEI) to engage in site-based, *mutually beneficial, research-based projects*. FIR projects can be wide ranging but must be designed in concert with the CBEI in which the residency will take place. Research projects must demonstrate clear benefits to both the faculty member (FM) and the CBEI and may include a wide-range of researchable topics.

Background

Immersing our work as researchers in local contexts is critical to our understanding of the constraints, tensions, and opportunities our school and community partners face and to our ability to engage in relevant research intended to improve practice. As such, the FIR program is aligned with the goals of research-practice partnerships¹, through which researchers can collaboratively explore problems of practice and produce accessible, actionable findings with CBEI partners. We believe that our work is more impactful and better informed when embedded within, and applied to real-world contexts. Further, the TeachNY² initiative recommended SUNY campuses be “empowered to be flexible and innovative” so they can schedule and structure classes and field experiences to improve educational opportunity and raise the level of collaboration and reciprocation of ideas in local school contexts. There were a variety of identified opportunities to expand K-20 collaborations noted in the recent *Report of Findings and Recommendations*. The FIR program seeks to leverage faculty knowledge and expertise to enhance the mutual exchange of educational ideas. GSE is home to a wide range of expertise and the FIR program is open to a variety of content areas and flexible contexts in which UB can increase its impact. To complement the added depth and breadth of knowledge resulting from this FIR exchange, this program should be considered a primary means to conduct research to demonstrate superior and innovative ways to perform our mutual work. (A list of previously supported FIR projects can be found [here](#).)

Proposal Guidelines

- Any FM or CBEI may initiate discussions regarding a FIR program at any public or charter school, health institution, or community agency engaged in informal education settings (e.g., museum, zoo, hospital)
- Prior to proposing a FIR, the FM and CBEI must decide on goals meeting the needs of the stakeholders and ensure the FIR project is mutually beneficial (i.e. provide professional development, further the research agenda of the FM, and/or provide valuable data for the CBEI)
- In some cases, a FM may warrant a course release during the project’s duration. Explanation of need for release must be included in the application. **FM may request a**

¹ Coburn, C. E., & Penuel, W. R. (2016). Research–Practice Partnerships in Education: Outcomes, Dynamics, and Open Questions. *Educational Researcher*, 45(1), 48–54. <https://doi.org/10.3102/0013189X16631750>

² A copy of the report is [available here](#).

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course release for fall, spring, or both, depending on the time needed to complete the project.

- **Applications are due to GSE Department Chair (copying AWinkels@buffalo.edu) by 3/13/20 for all 2020-2021 placements.** FIR placements will be notified by 5/1/20 so that Chairs, FM, and CBEI can have time to adequately prepare.
- While IRB approval and district/agency research approval are not required prior to the Chair's review, it is the FM's responsibility to ensure that these approvals are completed in time to begin their project in the designated semester.
- FM must include a plan for collaborative dissemination of findings for any data collected as part of the FIR program. FM should outline an anticipated plan including timeframe and anticipated venue (e.g. faculty/staff meeting, board presentation, etc.) for dissemination of findings to leaders and relevant CBEI faculty and staff at the CBEI. FM and CBEI collaborator will also be required to share findings with GSE as part of the last faculty meeting of each academic year.

Application Process

A complete application includes a brief (2-page maximum) summary of the project comprising the following:

- Location and name/contact details for primary collaborator
- Rationale for project, including an explanation of how project meets identified CBEI needs, furthers the FM's research agenda, and relates to departmental, school, or university strategic plans
- Project goals
- Project deliverables
- Justification for a course release/resources (if applicable)
- Recommendation from GSE Department Chair that addresses the following questions:
 - Does the project further the research agenda of the faculty member?
 - Does it clearly state how it will be mutually beneficial to the FM and the CBEI?
 - Does it further departmental, school, or UB strategic plans?
 - If FM requests a course release, department chair must indicate whether there will be a cost involved for the release.

Application Review Timeline

Applications are submitted to department chair for primary review. Chairs will make recommendations to the Dean based upon the merits of the proposal. Dean will make final decisions and notify applicants by **May 1st**.

Implementation Guidelines

- After Department Chair and Dean approval, the FM and collaborator at the CBEI must meet to ensure compliance with site requirements and to review project goals, activities, and an implementation timeline.
- The FM and CBEI leader/principal should coordinate a plan for communicating the goals and project activities to site personnel.
- The FM, CBEI collaborator, and faculty and/or staff participants should determine meeting dates for assessing goals, and implementation of activities.
- FIR projects may be renewed or extended if all parties agree. (Subject to budgetary constraints)

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Research Guidelines

- Schools and institutions where a FIR is facilitated, must agree to give access to research projects. For all projects an IRB review must be completed within two weeks of the start of the residency. All research team members must complete IRB training and certification though CBEI staff and faculty may not need to complete training but agree to the terms of research stated in the IRB.
- Data collection by FM or CBEI staff must adhere to District and University IRB policies.
- Results of data analyses for any data collected as part of a FIR program must be shared with the Department and GSE as well as the Principal/leader and relevant CBEI faculty and staff at the research site.

Deliverables

- Within one academic year of completion of FIR, the FM will deliver a GSE-wide and CBEI-wide presentation on the experience, the project, and the research. The FM should, wherever possible, include members of the CBEI in the presentation. Presentations should be given at UB and the CBEI in which the FIR project took place.

For any further questions, please contact awinkels@buffalo.edu.

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