



COLLEGE OF BUSINESS

Illinois State University

Wisdom's Torch Teaching and Learning Award Background and Application Guidelines

Background

The Wisdom's Torch Award is a new award to the College of Business designed to support teaching and learning. The Wisdom's Torch endowment was established through the generous support of COB faculty, staff, and administrators (both emeritus and currently employed). The origin of the name stems from a phrase in the university hymn: "may our alums go forth to bear, with zeal unceasing, Wisdom's Torch throughout the earth." The endowment supporting the award continues to grow through ongoing contributions with plans to award the expendable amount from the account each year. To donate to this fund, please contact Norris Porter (neporte@ilstu.edu).

The Wisdom's Torch Fund is designed to be flexible and offer support to broadly defined activities related to teaching and learning. The guiding philosophy of the fund is to provide for the extras that "pushes education from good to great." Examples of those extras may include but are not limited to: "attendance at conferences, entry fees for academic competitions, special hardware or software purchases to support research or classroom activities" to name just a few. Funded projects should support teaching and learning by College of Business faculty and students such that the College strengthens its ability to achieve excellence and fulfill its mission.

Application Guidelines

1. Applicants must be a faculty or staff member in the College of Business
2. Funds must be used to support teaching and learning in the College of Business
3. A one page application should be submitted to the Department Chair who will then submit it to the Dean's Office. Please see the attached application form.
4. Multiple individuals may be part of one submission but all should be directly involved in the activity or initiative.
5. **The application deadline for the Fall semester is the last Friday of September. Application deadline for the Spring semester is the last Friday of February.**
6. The award should be used in the Academic year in which the award is given. For this academic year only, retroactive awards will be granted given that a completed application and receipt(s) for the activity is (are) submitted and approved.
7. Awards in the amount of \$200 to \$1,000 will be supported up to the expendable portion of the endowment. This is done so that multiple departments, classes, and/or organizations may benefit from the award in any given year.
8. The selection process for the awards will be determined by the Dean with input from the COB Curriculum Team as to whether proposals are "acceptable" or "unacceptable".
9. The award recipient(s) will be notified as soon as the award is given with the expectation that award funds will be spent in the current academic year.
10. Awards may not be taken as salary since doing so is not consistent with how the endowment is established.
11. Award recipients agree to provide a brief summary to the Dean's office summarizing what was purchased and/or the activity supported with the award along with its outcomes. Summaries will be disseminated to the College to encourage more rapid contagion of good ideas.

**College of Business
Wisdom's Torch Teaching and Learning Award Application**

Faculty/Staff Member Name: _____

Department: _____ **Email:** _____

Phone: _____ **Award Amount Requested:** _____

Please briefly describe how the funds will be used to achieve excellence in teaching and learning.

How does this project help fulfill the COB's mission or strategic goals as shown in the Strategic Plan? (Please see the COB G-drive under the folders "Strategic Plan" ► "COB Strategic Plan" for the mission and strategic goals. Note: do not use any files in the folder "Strategic Planning Related Documents".)

What is the anticipated impact of this activity or initiative on teaching and learning?

Signature: _____ **Date:** _____

Reviewed By: _____ **Date:** _____
Department Chairperson