Land Acknowledgement

2023 MECha Workshop: Teaching & Learning Assistants in the Classroom Across Disciplines

Read Now | Consensus Guidance >>>

Infosession: 2024 CUES Spanning Boundaries Challenge on Teaching & Learning Assistants

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Session **Outline**

- TA/LA Spanning Boundaries (SB) Challenge: **Grant & Submission Overview**

- TA/LA Recommendations: **Key Takeaways**

- SB Grant Preparation: **Proposal Design, Research & Institutional Impact**

- **Q&A**

- **Speed Dating/Networking**

TA/LA: Teaching & Learning Assistant

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TA/LA Spanning Boundaries (SB) Challenge:
Grant & Submission Overview

AIM

Advance innovation and change for TAs/LAs in the UArizona learning experience through collaborative innovation and scholarship in teaching and learning.

RATIONALE

There is a large variety in how TAs and LAs are selected, assigned, supported, and trained across the University. Contributing to a culture that supports teaching teams and values what diverse TAs/LAs bring to the student experience is critical.

APPROACH

- Cross-disciplinary & cross-unit collaborations
- Alignment with the **CUES mission**
- Alignment with **TA/LA recommendations**
- Deliberate centering of UArizona institutional identities (borderland land grant, HSI, AA&U, R1)
- Consideration of University assets, resources, and needs

TA/LA
Consensus
Recommendations

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TA/LA Spanning Boundaries (SB) Challenge:
Grant & Submission Overview

FUNDING

- One project will be selected and funded for up to two years, **starting in Fall 2024**.
- Budget is **not to exceed a total of $100,000** over the duration of the project.

ELIGIBILITY

- Call is open to **cross-unit** or **cross-discipline** University teams.
- Teams must include **50% or more** tenure-track, continuing-status track, or career-track faculty.

KEY DATES

- Phase I: Pre-proposals due on **February 14**, 2024 by 11:59 pm.
- Phase II: Full proposals (by invitation only) due on April 22, 2024.
NOTE: invitations to submit for Phase II will be extended by March 8, 2024.

full submission guidelines

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Key Takeaways

Understanding Duties and Responsibilities

- Variability in roles and forms of compensation across programs and departments can lead to confusion in duties, expectations, etc.

Training and Mentoring

- Resources are available at the institutional level and beyond, but these are not always well known, nor well suited for all variations of roles.

Providing Equitable Environments

- Equity issues regarding TA/LA assignments, responsibilities, etc., in departments/across campus.

- Increased diversity of teaching teams may help improve outcomes for diverse learners.

Gathering Information on Impacts

- Existing literature lacks evidence-based knowledge about how different TA/LA teams impact student outcomes.

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SB Grant Preparation: **Proposal Design, Research & Institutional Impact**

What examples of proposals are envisioned?

Examples include but are not limited to…

- Design studies to develop and expand on TA/LA training in varying settings and levels

- Develop and assess the impact of culturally sensitive training on TA/LA engagement and success in working with diverse populations, in different educational settings

- Study the experiences of international and underrepresented students in TA/LA roles

- Design studies to assess how diverse teaching teams may improve engagement and achievement for diverse learners

- Investigate what strengths do TAs/LAs bring to various classroom settings and modalities (online, active learning, online active learning) and how to enhance them

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SB Grant Preparation: **Proposal Design, Research & Institutional Impact**

Design Considerations

- Contribute to scholarship within the mission of CUES

- Poised to impact practice and broader impacts

- Leverage MECha Workshop Recommendations

- Informed by:

  - ✓ related research, e.g., on culturally sensitive curricula

  - ✓ inclusive practices

  - ✓ existing resources on campus and beyond

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Resources
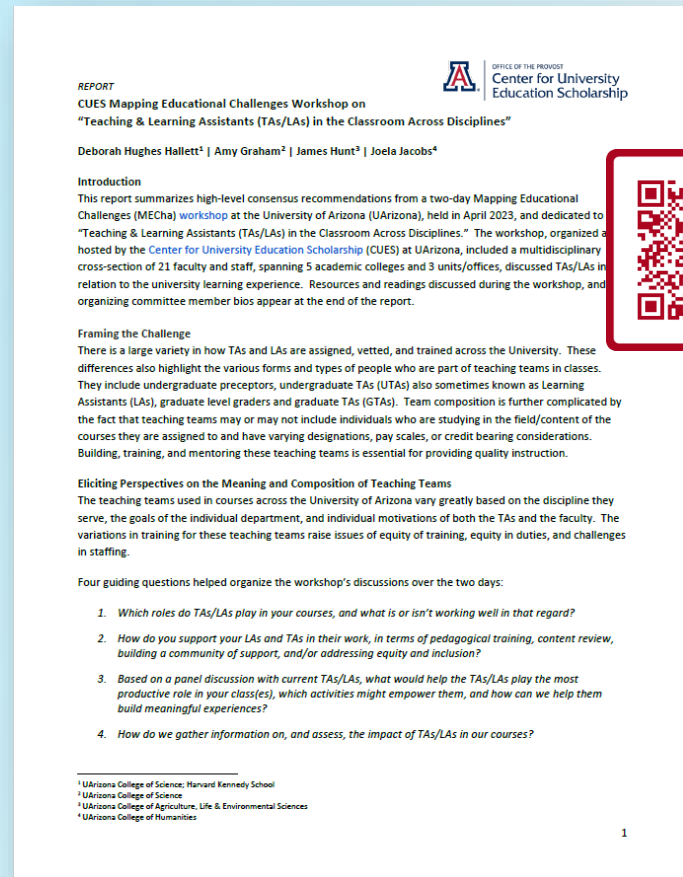
UCATT: University Center for Assessment, Teaching, and Technology
https://ucatt.arizona.edu/

Certificate in College Teaching
https://ucatt.arizona.edu/teaching/college-teaching-program

UA D2L Discover Courses:
GTA Training Materials
Learning Assistant Training Course (ITP)
Learning Researcher Training Course (ITP)
Instructional Manager Training Course (ITP)

Learning Assistant Alliance
https://www.learningassistantalliance.org/

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Q&A

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Speed Dating/Networking

- **5 Minutes – Organize**
  - o Write your name/project idea on sticky sheet, post around room
- **10 Minutes – Review**
  - o Circulate, adding your name to projects of interest
- **10 Minutes – Discuss (Part 1)**
  - o Return to a project of interest for networking
- **5-10 Minutes – Discuss (Part 2)**
  - o Return to additional projects, as needed

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CUES Distinguished Fellowships Competition
Nominations due April 1, 2024 | Read More >>>

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