

Postdoctoral Enhancement Awards for Teaching (PEAT): Program Description

The core aim of this initiative is to enhance the preparation of our Postdocs and Research Associates for academic careers that include teaching and the scholarship of teaching. This mechanism will provide the selected postdoc \$1,000 to be used for one or both of these two purposes:

- 1) To support a teaching experience that includes an innovative approach to the teaching of a particular topic in the candidate's area. Preference will be given to applications that propose an assessment of the effectiveness of the innovation, thus reflecting a "teaching as research" approach.
- 2) To attend a national or regional professional meeting to present a paper or poster based on their project results or on the description of the teaching innovation and its assessment.

To be eligible for the award the applicant must receive the endorsement of the Principal Investigator of the candidate's research group and identify a faculty member who would supervise the teaching project. The evaluation of applications will be done by the senior administrators/faculty of the MSU Graduate School and will be based on a 500-word narrative describing the rationale, significance and approach of the TAR project, accompanied by a detailed budget and budget justification. **The deadline for the current funding cycle is November 30, 2016.**

At the completion of the project, *PEAT* recipients will also be required to present their projects to the learning community of graduate students of the current cohort of Future Academic Scholars in Teaching (FAST) Fellows or at an MSU Postdoctoral Office activity. To evaluate the impact of the program, the participating postdocs will complete a post-program survey, developed to assess the added value of the program to their professional development and preparation as a future faculty member. Data will also be collected from the faculty who serve as their teaching mentor(s) and from the PIs, if they are different from the faculty supervising the teaching-as-research project. **Note that a successful project could be limited to a single module of a comprehensive course.**

This program will be implemented by Dr. Tony Nunez, Associate Dean, MSU Graduate School and Professor of Psychology/Neuroscience, and Dr. Rique Campa, Associate Dean, MSU Graduate School and Professor of Fisheries and Wildlife. This program is supported by the National Science Foundation, Great Lakes Higher Education Guaranty Corporation, and The Graduate School at MSU.