The Learning, Education, and Assessment Fellows (LEAF) Program is a one-year fellowship that encourages and supports experienced faculty to lead efforts that foster a strong teaching culture at NPS.

Learning, Education, and Assessment Fellows (LEAF) Program

Learning, Education, and Assessment Fellows will:

- Involve department faculty in learning and assessment activities that benefit the department.
- Identify instructional and assessment challenges, in their departments or programs, and then work to address those challenges in collaboration with their colleagues. Challenges should be particularly relevant to fellow’s department or program, and of potential interest to faculty elsewhere on campus.
- Partner with the Office of Teaching & Learning to coordinate and to engage resources that facilitate learning community activities.
- Each fellow may request additional funding to support the work of their learning community. These funds may be used to purchase books & resources, bring in outside speakers, to fund conference travel among other options. Request for additional funds must be included in the proposal.

Support for LEAF Fellows

- The Office of Teaching & Learning will help identify resources and meaningful activities to develop deeper understandings and more informed practices around the identified challenge.
- LEAF faculty leaders will receive ½ quarter release time ($25K) to provide leadership for quarterly activities that address the departments identified learning challenge.

Learning, Education, and Assessment Fellow Roles and Responsibilities

Senior faculty will build a learning community within their department and lead efforts to address a teaching and learning challenge that advances learning and the educational goals of the department.

Challenges could be about improving the quality and effectiveness of instruction within a department or curriculum—targeting areas of under-performance, fostering improvements in applied learning across the curriculum, creating a process and resources for peer review, improving learner engagement, and the use of explicit feedback derived from authentic assessments of learning among other options.
What will LEAF learning communities do?

1. Learning communities will develop **quarterly schedules** to investigate areas of interest as related to their challenge, establish goals, and actionable items.

2. Learning communities will meet a minimum of five times during the academic year.

3. Learning communities will be encouraged to meet informally, visit classes as a way to better understand and apply relevant teaching and assessment practices and to observe important learning dynamics.

4. Learning communities will generate a final product to summarize their investigation. Potential projects might include a set of recommendations, a white paper or Science of Teaching and Learning (So TEL) publication, enhanced syllabi and assessment plans, a panel presentation for leadership and colleagues campus wide, a video case study, among other possibilities.

Eligibility & Application Process

1. Senior tenured, non-tenured or military faculty members (TT, NTT, MilFac) are eligible to apply to the LEAF Program.

2. Applicants must submit a letter of application in which:
   - Describe a significant teaching and learning challenge for NPS, departments, or program that will be addressed by a faculty team.
   - Describe how the proposed LEAF Project will benefit the teaching mission of NPS and its academic programs.
   - Budget Description of labor and non-labor requirements to implement this proposal.


3. LEAF Proposals must be reviewed and approved by a dean or academic chair. Once approved, the department chair or dean will co-sign and submit the completed proposals for LEAF AY 2022 to arodgers@nps.edu by 8 December, 2021.

Selection Process

✔ NPS hopes to select senior faculty fellows who are representative of the campus and its teaching environment.

✔ Applicants will be reviewed and selected using a process established by the Provost.

✔ The review of applicants will consider the nature of the challenge identified by the applicant, including its urgency and relevance across campus as well as the applicant’s potential to affect change in their areas of influence.

✔ Fellows will be selected promptly and notified in late December, 2021.

✔ Learning Communities will be formed and begin meeting during the Winter Quarter AY 22.