

April 1, 2022

Dear Colleagues,

We are delighted that you are applying for an ***Innovating Forward*** seed grant to support collaborative initiatives between university campus departments, divisions, or offices which support student spirituality as part of comprehensive wellness. These grants are being offered through the *Spiritual Mind Body Institute* at Columbia University, Teachers College with generous funding from *The John Templeton Foundation*.

Our hope is that a seed grant might initiate collaborative efforts that, once launched, help to support university students' spirituality, support the emotional bonds between students, and build strong partnerships among university campus organizations or departments. With an open heart and mission to create campuses where inclusiveness is not an initiative but rather an organic way of being, we encourage applicants whose organizations foster a spirit of engagement and passion. We welcome applicants who encourage diversity and participation. Whether your organization is focused on serving a marginalized group or a broader community, we recognize a diverse collection of minds are often at the heart of great ideas.

Please use this seed grant as an opportunity to be creative; feel free to be original, take a well-grounded risk, or *attempt the approach that you might always have envisioned would help students*.

The approach of your ***Innovating Forward*** team may vary widely, to include whole-person wellness, mental health support, renewal, deepening inner life, and relationship building, as well as broad community-based initiatives; all are welcomed. We welcome approaches that include undergraduate students, graduate students, or both populations.

Pragmatically, seed grants encourage communities "to start by starting," with novel initiatives that may evolve, refine, and perhaps become organically funded or supported regionally.

The few parameters to funding initiatives are as follows:

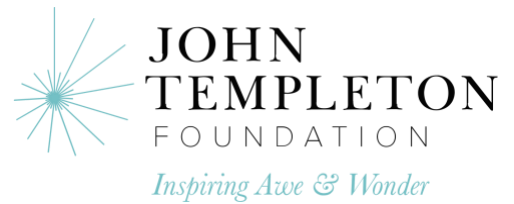
At least two offices, departments, organizations, or divisions on one or more campuses located in the United States.

At least four collaborators (representing a convening of knowledge, wisdom, and experience).

The offering or "deliverable" to the target group of the initiative must convene at least eight times (in relative brief sessions or meetings, such as a 90-120-minute group) or be a significantly longer event (a retreat, conference, or convening). All meetings will be held via Zoom.

Seed grants will range from \$2,500-\$10,000 to be used over a period of one year. We ask for a two-page proposal stating the core vision of partnership service:

- 1) "for whom, what and why,"
- 2) a brief (2-4 line) bio for each partnership leader/core contributor



3) a working sketch of the deliverable (which naturally may evolve through the collaboration).

Optional materials – please feel free to include links to multimedia creations from your organizations.

Kindly submit the two-page proposal by May 1, 2022 by email to Dr. Amy Chapman (alc2295@tc.columbia.edu). Notification will be sent by June 1, 2022. Seed grants will run from July 2022 to June 2023.

Over the grant period, we will host Innovating Forward gatherings for recipients to share vision, learning, developments, and progress by the partnerships. At the conclusion of the grant period, we will request from recipients in June, 2023 a one-page description of the project ongoing or completed.

We aim to welcome an active Innovating Forward community!

Kindest Regards,

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Teachers College, Columbia University

Amy Chapman, Ph.D.
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