

Introducing the Billiken Boost Program to Support Equitable Faculty Scholarly Achievement

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Dear Colleagues,

Since March 2020, the COVID-19 pandemic has impacted the lives and careers of the SLU community in a variety of ways, especially as it comes to increased caregiving to young children and family members, increased health needs and fears, and even loss of time and energy devoted to scholarship.

In order to address some of these challenges, we are pleased to announce the *Billiken Boost Program for Supporting Equitable Faculty Scholarly Achievement*. This program is sponsored and funded by the Provost's office in collaboration with the Gender Equity Committee, Faculty Fellow for Equity Issues, and the Office of Diversity and Community Engagement. The program has three main goals:

1. Define the impact of the COVID-19 on faculty scholarship.
2. Empower increased achievement for faculty whose scholarship was impacted by the COVID-19 pandemic through a one-time stipend for needed academic resources.
3. Eliminate the gap in the timely advancement (i.e. promotion, tenure, merit raises) of faculty whose scholarship was impacted by the COVID-19 pandemic.

The program is designed to support tenured, tenure-track, and non-tenure track assistant and associate professors whose record of scholarship were impacted by the COVID-19 pandemic and who propose feasible plans for resuming their scholarly achievement. The program will offer a one-time stipend up to \$5000 to be used over 1 or 2 semesters for a needed academic resource (e.g., course buyout, hire teaching assistant, hire graduate research assistant, summer salary support for research or other scholarship time, training/conference for professional growth, materials/technology to advance teaching pedagogy, release from service/admin time). *Recipients will be required to report back on the impact of the stipend on their scholarly work and personal/professional development.*

Additional details about the program, including the application process, eligibility criteria, selection process, key dates, and the Boost program review rubric are included in the [attached documents](#). We encourage all faculty to review these documents and apply for the stipends to support your important scholarly work and hopefully help eliminate some of the impact from the pandemic. For additional information, please reach out to provost@slu.edu.

Sincerely,

Mike Lewis, Ph.D.
Provost

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Associate Professor - School of Medicine
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