

2012-2013 Grant Recipient

Hossein Kazemi South-Western Economics Teaching Conference Pedagogy Travel Grant

Project Description:

I am applying for a Pedagogy Travel Grant in order to attend an invited conference on Teaching Pedagogy in Economics at the South-Western Economics Teaching Conference and give an hour-long lecture on "Using Bloomberg as a Teaching Tool in Economics". This presentation is based on a unique and interactive technique that I have developed over the course of the past several years, which incorporates real time financial news with the analytical tools of Bloomberg to show students in economics and finance how to bridge the typical gap between the theory and practice. I began my work on this paper at a SOTL retreat this past May, which I found to be very helpful. I presented the first draft of this paper in Boston at the end of that month at the American Economic Association (AEA) Conference on Teaching and Economic Research in Education. My presentation at this conference was very well received. Two immediate positives resulting from this presentation this past May were an invitation by the editor of the Journal of Economic Education (JEE), to submit the paper that I presented in May to their journal for publication. The second was an invitation to give a long version of the paper at the South Western Teaching Conference in Orlando in November, the conference for which I am applying for this travel grant.

There is no previous work that I am aware of in the literature that incorporates Bloomberg as a teaching tool to students in economics courses. Colleges with Bloomberg have this technology as a resource, which is there to be used by students as a database. My work and the presentation in the November South-Western Economics Teaching Conference explore ways this technology can be utilized as a teaching tool and bridge the difficult gap between the theory and practice. It further intends to measure the effectiveness of this approach as a teaching tool. Through this travel grant, I intend to show the applications of my teaching technique in economics as well as other related disciplines, and receive hopefully the feedback and critique necessary to submit the results for publication in the Journal of Economic Education.

Benefit:

This teaching and learning project focuses on a new and innovative teaching technique that enhances students' ability to absorb much more material with a greater degree of complexity and depth with a significantly greater degree of engagement and learning. The potential beneficiaries of this project hence are: students who take classes taught in this hands-on-manner, faculty teaching economics or any related subjects, who want to expand the learning horizon in their classrooms and anyone else who is interested in learning in a more academic way how news impacts them financially. Finally, the gratification that I get as an academic to have worked on something that I care about and bring it to a point and level that could be helpful to others through 1) classroom teaching, 2) research, sharing and dissemination of my findings with my peers at Stonehill and at conferences such as the AEA May Conference and South-Western Teaching Conference in Florida this November, 3) publication of the work in a scholarly economic journal and 4) hopefully through sharing this technique with colleagues at these conferences, receive critique and feedback that I can use to improve my work further.

Community Outreach:

I presented my earlier work on this topic titled: "Use of Technology in Teaching Economics and Finance", at the American Economic Association (AEA), Conference on Teaching and Economic Research in Education that was sponsored by the Federal Reserve Bank of Boston this past May 30th. Additionally, I will be presenting an hour-long version of the paper at the South-Western Economic Teaching Conference in Orlando Florida this November.

Budget:

South-Western Economics Teaching Conference in Orlando
Air: Boston to Orlando Round Trip \$351.60

Hotel: 3 Nights @\$139/Night Plus Tax = \$469.11
Airport Parking \$72.00
Total \$892.71
Amount Requested \$750.