

# Pedagogy Travel Grant Application Form

This grant supports faculty travel to **teaching-related** conferences and workshops. Attendance at disciplinary conferences can be funded, as long as there is a clear pedagogical reason for attending. Proposals focused solely on course content development are typically not funded. Applications are due **on the first of the month**.

**Name**

Heiko Todt

**E-mail**

htodt@stonehill.edu

**Amount requested (\$750 max)**

750

**Conference or workshop you wish to attend.**

MAA MathFest 7/31-8/3

## **Description of the workshop or conference and what you hope to get out of it.**

The MAA is a large mathematical association that has a significant emphasis on teaching mathematics. MathFest is its national meeting and there are many sessions related to teaching mathematics. There are many sessions that I would like to attend that focus on several aspects of teaching. In particular, here are the titles of some of these sessions:

- Understanding mathematics through its history
- Inquiry-based teaching and learning
- Diversity, Equity and Inclusion in Mathematics
- Encouraging Effective Teaching Innovation
- Plug and Play Data Science Lessons

Attending these sessions will provide me with some new ideas and strategies how to improve my courses.

For example, I have always used some historical background information in my courses, but last semester I experimented with having students read parts of historical math papers as an introduction to a new topic. This seemed to work well, but I want to hear different experiences and strategies from others in the "Understanding mathematics through its history session."

Given recent events on campus, the "Diversity, Equity and Inclusion in Mathematics" session is also an important session to attend. While mathematics has come a long way already (considering where it was 20-30 years ago) with respect to fostering an inclusive and diverse environment, it still has ways to go. I want to hear what strategies other math departments are currently pursuing.

Finally, the session "Plug and Play Data Science Lessons," which is about including data science topics in other math courses, is important given that we are starting a data science major soon. We should show students that this topic is important not just within the data science major, but these questions also show up in other parts of mathematics. Learning about strategies to accomplish this will be useful.

## **Discuss the benefit to the Stonehill community**

Attending all of these sessions will give me new ideas about teaching and how to improve some of my courses. Students will directly benefit from this.

Hopefully, the math department will get a new faculty line next year, as we have been understaffed for the last few years. It should be our goal then to attract a diverse applicant pool and hopefully contribute our part to making Stonehill a more inclusive and diverse place. Attending the session on diversity will give me insight and ideas how other schools are doing this.

Finally, the math department frequently exchanges ideas among us about pedagogical strategies, so I will share any new ideas with the rest of the department. I can envision that some ideas I learn about data science will make its way into our calculus curriculum within the next few years.

## **How will you share your project findings or outcomes with the Stonehill community?**

The teaching strategies will be shared with the rest of the math department. There may also be strategies that are interesting for other STEM disciplines and I would share these ideas with other departments if there is a benefit for them.

If I gain any insights that are broader than just math or STEM I would also be happy to share this during a session on academic development day.

## **Please detail your budget.**

Registration: \$390

Flight: \$300 (currently available for around that price, but this might change depending on booking date)

Meals: \$150

Hotel: \$400

These costs go over the \$750 travel grant. The remaining cost would be covered by my faculty development funds. However, without the \$750 travel grant I would not be able to go to MathFest. I do not have enough faculty development funds left to cover the whole cost of MathFest due to taking students to present their research at conferences in the fall and spring semesters.