

## TRANSFORMATIONAL FUNDED GRANTS

Project Director	Title
Melhart, Bonnie	<p><b>Graduate Financial Aid Enhancement.</b> This transformational proposal begins the process of "making good" on the "TCU promises" for our current and future graduate students with several initiatives. Three specific outcomes are desired to improve the graduate academic profile of TCU:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. The quality of graduate students accepted will be improved.</li> <li>2. The overall size of the graduate student population will be increased.</li> <li>3. The visibility of graduate programming at TCU will be raised, with the goal of helping TCU become an increasingly more significant private university.</li> </ol> <p>Existing resources will be channeled to increase the visibility of graduate programs. Funds are requested to enhance graduate financial aid. The proposed enhancement will allow significant increases to the levels of stipend support for graduate student programs at TCU and enable increased enrollments at the graduate level. Current assistantship stipends are far below national averages in most disciplines. Raising these stipends will increase the quality of students our PhD and Master's programs attract and will, in turn, raise the academic profile of the University.</p>
Jackson, Donald	<p><b>Institutionalizing TCU's Center for Civic Literacy.</b> This proposal will place the Center for Civic Literacy on a solid foundation and will transform the Center from a fledgling entity into a potentially influential membership and corporate-sponsored institution that should be able to generate sufficient revenue to sustain its program of community internships and public affairs programs for the community of which TCU is part. The object is to build an institution that is responsible to perceived community needs and issues and to foster strengthened relationships between TCU and the community. The educational benefit for our students will be to train them to be informed and ethical participants in the public life of the community and to offer them opportunities for participatory learning through community-based internships. TCU faculty will benefit through the Center's community-based collaborative research programs that require at least one TCU faculty member to collaborate with at least one leader from the community as co-principal investigators on research that is intended to help resolve community problems. The work of the Center also currently benefits from collaboration between the Department of Political Science and Student Development Services. NOTE: This project was not funded but funds have been encumbered. The Provost will schedule an initial meeting between TCU, the Center for Civil Literacy and Leadership Fort Worth to determine if a collaboration between the entities has synergic merits.</p>
Slattery, Michael	<p><b>Institute for Environmental Studies.</b> TCU has established a strong study abroad program in Costa Rica that includes lessons in biodiversity, ecosystems, coastal and marine ecology, geologic hazards, ecotourism, forest conservation, and urban issues such as water supplies and wastewater treatment. Students who have benefited from the existing program want to strengthen TCU's ties to Latin America by developing the San Ramon Tropical Research Station (SRTRS) in Costa Rica. SRTRS is a two-year-old, 300-acre research station established on the edge of the largest private cloud forest preserve (The Children's Eternal Rainforest) in Central America (54,000 acres). Because access to the Children's Eternal Rainforest is exceedingly restricted, the SRTRS provides a unique opportunity to conduct long-term studies on the flora, fauna, soils, hydrology, and geophysical nature of this significant natural resource area. The SRTRS is located in cloud forest habitat, and is designed specifically for conservation and research. The owner of the forest habitat is seeking to establish an exclusive relationship with an American University. With the owner in residence and the station infrastructure already in place, TCU's involvement could rapidly expand the presence and potential for this station.</p>

Watson, Ronald	<b>TCU Satellite Gallery Concept.</b> The challenge: To be recognized as an innovative intellectual and creative resource in a city of world-class art museums and significant galleries. To transform our community standing to meet this challenge, we propose to institute a satellite gallery in a space off-campus in a commercial or industrial setting. Here we will present new, untested art to the community outside of the university, as well as to those associated with it. Experienced, knowledgeable TCU faculty members will guide the gallery programming and conduct it as a laboratory for young artists and art scholars. This project is a quantum leap for TCU's presence in the community and is an important step in fundraising efforts for TCU. Although patronage for visual art is well established in Fort Worth, TCU is not receiving the financial support merited by our quality and programming.
Whitworth, Keith	<b>TCU Purple Bike Program &amp; Sustainability.</b> The purpose of the project is to complete the 2006-2007 Pathways grant, which launched the TCU Purple Bike Program (PBP) and began a new cultural norm in which students, faculty, and staff are more "literate" about sustainability challenges and have both the skills and attitudes to participate in solutions. The PBP will offer bikes at no cost to TCU students, organizations and departments in order to establish a high visibility program which informs students, faculty, and staff about sustainability challenges at the local and global level. PBP has drawn local radio, TV, and newspaper attention as well as national attention from the Association for the Advancement of Sustainability in Higher Education. The PBP will become a trademark for TCU and assist with the recruitment of students. It will be a catalyst to promote sustainability programs and practices on the campus. The PBP includes a web site with a carbon offset calculator, which generates revenue to purchase more bikes. The business model also includes revenue from advertisements from spoke and baskets ads which will sustain the PBP and allow for the purchase of additional bikes.