



Shasta College is committed to supporting innovation ideas that enhance student learning and success. As a result of the 2015 Governor's Innovation Award, there is now a designated fund (up to \$100,000 per year for the next four to six years) to support faculty and staff projects that ultimately result in increased goal attainment for students. In accordance with the criteria for the Innovation Award, practices that enhance transfer and four-year degree completion while reducing time to degree are the highest priorities.

Please complete this application and submit it to the Innovation Office by February 28, 2017. For questions, please contact Theresa Markword, Director of Innovation and Special Projects, at [tmarkword@shastacollege.edu](mailto:tmarkword@shastacollege.edu) or 242-7699.

<b>Submitted by:</b>	Shelly Presnell, Robb Lightfoot and Michael Trujillo
<b>Division/Dept. Name:</b>	ACSS/Communication Studies
<b>Project Name:</b>	Rookie Speech Tournament
<b>Project Overview</b>	
Please provide a brief overview of the project.	
A Rookie Speech Tournament is a competitive speech tournament in which students prepare and deliver informative and persuasive speeches. The tournament is structured in "rounds." Each round occurs in a separate classroom with 5 presenters and 1 judge. Each student competes in two rounds. Student scores are tallied after the completion of the opening rounds and the top students compete in semi-final rounds. At the conclusion of the semi-finals the top 5 students compete for 1st through 5th rankings in a final round. The Rookie Tournament provides students with an opportunity to participate in a public speaking event that expands their experience beyond a classroom environment.	
<b>Student Impact</b>	
The main focus of the Innovation Award funds is to positively impact student learning and success. Please describe how your project will:	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Improve one or more Student Learning Outcomes (SLOs)</li><li>• Increase student engagement and/or success</li><li>• Reduce the amount of time for a student to complete a Certificate, Associates Degree or Bachelor's Degree</li><li>• Document measurable results (consult with the Research Office)</li></ul>	
A Rookie Speech Tournament provides students with an opportunity to engage in civic discourse designed to enhance 21st century skills of communication, critical thinking, creativity and collaboration. Students will learn how to become informed, engaged and responsible citizens. A Rookie Speech Tournament for our Public Speaking courses (CMST 60) will complement the Civic Expo for our Small Group Communication courses (CMST 54). Proficiency in oral communication skills is required for meeting both Shasta College AA and AA-T degree requirements and transfer requirements for the CSU system. A Rookie Speech Tournament in combination with the Civic Expo will thus ensure that all of the students who take CMST 60 and CMST 54 at Shasta College will be provided with an opportunity to extend their education beyond the classroom to participate in a civic discussion about important contemporary social and political issues. Through this experience students develop a greater understanding of the rights and responsibilities of free speech and a greater appreciation for the diversity of perspectives in a global society. Developing the 21st century skills necessary to engage in civic discourse is directly tied to program and institutional learning outcomes. Program: Students will be able to communicate ethically, responsibly, and effectively as local, national and global citizens. Institutional outcomes of critical thinking, information competency, effective communication,	

self-efficacy, workplace skills, and community and global awareness are important components of a rookie speech tournament. Additionally, experience in a rookie tournament will help students reduce communication apprehension. Research shows that communication apprehension poses significant completion risks for college students. Students with higher degrees of communication apprehension are more likely to drop out of college than students who have lower degrees of communication apprehension (Yook, 2006). Communication apprehension has long been recognized as a contributing factor of college success, but is widely ignored. According to Monroe and Borzi (as cited in Everett, 1999), a high degree of communication apprehension has been linked to a “decreased inclination to enroll in college” (p. 39). Once enrolled in college, studies reveal that students with higher levels of communication apprehension are less likely to participate in classroom discussions, and are perceived to be less friendly and intelligent by instructors (Everett, 1999). Many students are often uncomfortable utilizing office hours as a support system due to the communication apprehension of face-to-face conversation, putting them at further risk (Turkle, 2015). A high degree of communication apprehension faced by many students leads to postponing and/or avoiding enrollment in college classes and “may seriously hamper persons as they seek to share their thoughts, ideas, and visions” (Yook, 2012, p. 4). Thus, to enhance student success at Shasta College and to meet Institutional Goal 1.a. (Increase completion of degrees, certificates, and transfer requirements) students need to be provided with opportunities to engage in civic discourse to enhance their confidence and their development of 21st century skills. To measure student learning the research office has been contacted and is prepared to help create a pre- and post test to effectively measure learning outcomes.

## Collaboration

Mini-grant projects often involve collaboration between multiple divisions/departments and/or outside entities (K-12, CSU/UC, or community partnerships). Please:

- List any internal and/or external collaborative partners
- Confirm that the partners are aware of the project

An innovation grant would provide the resources needed to develop a Rookie Speech Tournament large enough to include all CMST 60 classes and to expand the Rookie Tournament beyond the confines of Shasta College. Innovation funds would enable us to engage in substantial outreach to 8th – 12th grade students in our district and to showcase the kinds of programs available at Shasta College. A Rookie Speech Tournament would provide 8th – 11th grade students with an opportunity to attend and observe students engaged in civic discourse and 12th grade students would be eligible to enroll as a presenter. The Toastmasters Red Bluff chapter has offered to help serve as judges for the event and to reach out to the Redding Chapter to garner additional support for a rookie tournament. The Director the Speech and Debate Team at CSU, Chico has offered to consult on the development of a rookie tournament at Shasta College, to serve as a judge for our events, and to bring CSUC speech and debate students to serve as judges.

## Future Possibilities

The Shasta College mini-grants initiative provides the testing ground for innovative ideas to determine successful outcomes that may be used on a broader scale.

Please discuss if the project is:

- Replicable (easily shared with other campus programs)
- Scalable
- Cost-Effective (e.g., through number of students served; through District efficiencies increasing service to students; or if scaling up will prove cost-effective)

The Rookie Speech Tournament would be offered on a Saturday every fall and spring semester. The tournament presents an opportunity for faculty of other programs to encourage students to attend and/or to have students participate as presenters or as judges of the events. The tournament would start in Spring 2018 with students enrolled in CMST 60 courses and an invite to the larger campus community to attend. The tournament would be scaled up to include CMST 40 (Argumentation and Debate) students and 8th-12th grade students in our district starting in Spring 2018.

<b>Logistics</b>	<p>The mini-grant cycle—to include planning, implementation, and evaluation—is a maximum of 18 months (Fall-Spring-Fall), and all funding sources should be considered. Please confirm that:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The project phases can be completed within an 18-month cycle</li> <li>• No other funding sources are available for the project</li> <li>• A Budget Proposal form has been completed and is attached.</li> </ul>
<p>A properly run Rookie Tournament serving 300+ students a semester is an 8 hour event. To effectively run a Rookie Speech Tournament resources would be needed for 1) supplies (paper, pens, pencils, printing, stop watches), 2) faculty stipends for attendance at north state Rookie Tournaments, development of awards, develop training procedures for judges, develop scoring forms and tabulation room procedures, 3) light refreshments for coordinators and judges working the full day, and 4) use of facilities for 10 - 12 classrooms including security and custodial costs. Outline of mini-grant cycle: In Fall 2017 faculty would attend CSU, Chico Rookie Tournament to observe a model program, develop necessary policies and procedures to effectively run a Rookie Speech Tournament at Shasta College, secure and train judges, and participate in outreach efforts. In Spring 2018 final plans would be made for the first Rookie Speech Tournament which would be scheduled in late April or early May. All CMST 60 students would participate and 8th – 12th students would be invited to attend the event. In Summer 2018 the logistics of the tournament and the results of the pre- and post test would be reviewed and any necessary changes or improvements will be planned for Fall 2018. In Fall 2018 the event would be expanded to include the participation of 8th – 12th students and faculty/students from other disciplines.</p>	