

**The Center for Excellence in the Arts and Humanities  
and  
The College of Liberal Arts and Sciences  
Announce  
A Call for “Imagining Iowa” Public Scholarship Proposals**

Iowa faces major changes as land devoted to growing crops for animal feed and human food is redirected to growing crops for energy production. Dozens of Iowa towns have already become sites ethanol and bio-diesel plants, generating excitement about the possibilities of revitalizing struggling rural economies. At the same time, Iowans are concerned about potential negative impacts on their families and communities, land and water use, the cost of food, the cost of maintaining roads, and effects on the global food market. ISU scientists and engineers are already involved in the bio-economy; however, there is a need for faculty in the arts, design, and humanities to collaborate with the social sciences to explore, with Iowa citizens, the aesthetic, environmental, ethical, historical, and social implications of this change.

To encourage scholarly activity that focuses on “Imagining Iowa” in the emerging bio-economy, the Center for Excellence in the Arts and Humanities and the College of Liberal Arts and Sciences have joined together to provide a seed grant program for public scholarship. By public scholarship, we mean scholarly and creative work jointly planned and carried out by university and community partners; intellectual work that produces a public good; or artistic, critical and historical work that contributes to public debates. We will supply up to \$15,000 in support of an interdisciplinary faculty group to engage this topic. The funds can be used for faculty salaries (summer or course buyouts, beginning in 2009), graduate student stipends, travel, supplies and equipment that will directly support the work.

Some of the considerations in awarding this grant include: the quality of the proposal; the amount of interdisciplinary collaboration envisioned among humanists, social scientists, and the public; and plans to disseminate the results to the people of Iowa.

The proposal process will be in two steps. Small developmental grants (up to \$150) will be awarded to individuals or groups that apply with an initial idea by October 1, 2007. The application will be a single sheet providing a title and two-sentence description of the project along with a list of proposed faculty the might be interested. The purpose of this developmental grant is to offset the expenses of getting this group together to form the basis of the proposal.

The full proposal will be due Feb 1, 2008 and will include in three or fewer pages a description of the project, the participants and their roles, and a vision for the public scholarship that will be incorporated. An additional page will summarize the proposed budget. Please include signatures of the relevant department chairs.