

# Student Engagement in Assessment Mini-Grant

## Mini-Grant Inception

The Institutional Effectiveness (IE) Assessment Working Team sponsored its inaugural Student Engagement in Assessment Mini-Grant during the 2023-24 academic year. The mini-grant was established to infuse equity-minded assessment practices into academic and co-curricular programs/units' assessment activities. Involving students in the assessment process validates their lived experiences as learners and provides faculty/staff with unique perspectives to enhance the student learning experience.

## Student Learning Goals

- Students will gain assessment knowledge and skills (e.g., student learning outcomes development, identifying measures and criteria, analyzing results, curriculum mapping).
- Students will develop a sense of agency to help inform program/unit decision-making.

## Faculty & Staff Support

- Faculty and staff receive resources and guides on how to engage students in each phase of the assessment cycle.
- Faculty/staff receive constructive feedback and input on program/unit assessment activities from the AWT.
- Cohort members share their projects with one another to get feedback and ideas.

## Biomedical and Chemical Engineering (BMCE), College of Engineering and Computer Science

BMCE offers a vibrant and collaborative learning environment that emphasizes discovery to ignite innovations in medicine, healthcare, renewable energy, and sustainable energy practices.

## Center for Learning and Student Success (CLASS)

CLASS provides and facilitates comprehensive, high-quality academic support services in partnership with offices and academic departments across Syracuse University.

## 2023-24 Mini-Grant Recipients

## New Student Programs (NSP)

NSP serves undergraduate first-year students, transfer students, family members and supporters. Through a lens of learning, exploration and success, the NSP team is a continuous resource from the first day to graduation. NSP is a primary point of contact for information and guidance regarding academic and campus life.

## Retention and Student Success

The Retention and Student Success team support students, faculty, staff, parents and supporters in identifying and removing academic and non-academic barriers to help students meet their goals.

## Benefits to Students

- Empowers students to become agents of their own learning.
- Encourages reflective/metacognitive learning.
- Allows students to share their experiences and contribute to the assessment process in meaningful ways (e.g., participate through school/college, department, or program committees, surveys, course feedback, focus groups).
- Fosters skill development such as communication, research, analysis, and problem-solving.

## Benefits to Faculty & Staff

- Provides constructive feedback and input on assessment activities (e.g., students' feedback, co-creating/revising learning outcomes, assisting with rubric development, analyzing, and interpreting data).
- Encourages reflection on and improvement to the holistic teaching, learning, and student experience.
- Creates a reciprocal and inclusive community committed to advancing critical student learning practices and conversations.

## Want to Apply?

Up to 5 mini-grants are available for 2024-25. Mini-grants are \$500 and can be used to pay student stipend(s), purchase software/tools/books for assessment that a student would utilize, meetings/retreats where students are collaborating with faculty/staff, and/or purchase food or incentives to increase student(s) participation in assessment sessions.

