18 February, 2016

To: All Faculty and Staff

From: Stephen Schellenberg, Interim Dean, Division of Undergraduate Studies

Re: Call for Proposals-2016-17 Experience Movement Theme and Faculty Coordinator Announcement.

The Common Experience promotes increased interactions among faculty, staff, and students through a focus on a common contemporary theme, related readings, and academic endeavors. The Program has selected the following themes for the next four academic years: “Experience Energy” (AY 15-16) “Experience Movement” (AY16/17), “Experience Imagination” (AY17/18), and “Experience Time” (AY18/19). Please visit the program website for additional details about the AY 15-16 programs at http://commonexperience.sdsu.edu/dus/commonexperience/.

The Common Experience invites proposals from faculty and staff for the 2016-17 Experience Movement theme.  **AY 16-17 Proposals are due on 8 April, 2016 to Jose Preciado by 4 pm via preciado@mail.sdsu.edu.**

Proposals should include a brief concept paper, implementation plan, and budget (The average award from last year’s Common Experience award cycle was $1,700). Implementation plans should describe affiliated coursework, intended audience, month or semester of implementation, participant engagement efforts, and learning outcomes as appropriate to the nature of the proposal. Projects that support one or more of the seven Essential Learning Capacities of the General Education Program are highly encouraged. Further consideration will be given to proposals that include experiential components and/or are interdisciplinary in scope.

Total proposal length should not exceed five pages.

**Faculty Coordinator Joseph Alter**

I am pleased to join Jose Preciado, Director of Academic Engagement Programs, in announcing the appointment Associate Professor of Dance Joseph Alter, MFA, as the 2016-17 Experience Movement Faculty Coordinator for the Common Experience.

Professor Alter's perspective on the theme of "Experience Movement":

“As an artist, researcher, pedagogue and the coordinator of SDSU’s Division of Dance, movement is simultaneously the primary characteristic of my discipline and the lens through which I encounter and make sense of the world. Our ability to perceive, interpret and assign meaning to our lives and the world in which we live is contingent upon movement: we must move to in order to make sense of the world. Movement allows us to experience the world in which we live, and in moving through the world we have an opportunity to both shape it and be shaped by it. Moving people together in order to share, exchange and expand ideas through various of modes of inquiry is a task worthy of undertaking. As next year’s
theme is “Experience Movement” it is easy to understand my deep interest in serving SDSU as Faculty Coordinator for this initiative.”

Professor Alter’s cross disciplinary vision for the theme of “Experience Movement”:

“It is my sense that movement is constitutive of everything. The discipline of physics tells us that everything is always moving. Everything moves and through movement becomes relational. It is in these relationships, enabled through movement, that I find the greatest potential for this common experience at SDSU. Through this relational lens, it is also possible to see all things as being “connected.” In truth, emerging societal, cultural, political, and economic paradigm shifts are frequently referred to as “movements.” In light of this “connection” it is my hope that “Experience Movement” could promote greater cross disciplinary engagement between faculty and extend student learning beyond the classroom and across disciplines. Toward that end, it is my hope that by embedding interdisciplinary engagement in the call for proposals we might cultivate fuller participation and more movement. One possible example of this might be the study of the migration patterns of humans for reasons of adverse political, economic, or environmental conditions. Or perhaps the study of some physical phenomenon through different degrees of scale in physics, cellular biology, or environmental studies. Toward that end it might be useful to explore, in the interests of community and interdisciplinary engagement, how we can actively promote cross-disciplinary events. I would also like to ascertain what questions/subjects would be of interest and have meaning to students. It has been my experience that students learn most when they are engaged, and the discovery of relevance and meaning in their subjects of study typically deepens engagement. Another aspect that deeply interests me with regard to “Experience Movement” is the possibility of offering more opportunities for our community to experience the phenomenological aspects of their own disciplines as well as others. It would be interesting to explore how to promote more embodied experiential forms of engagement as an integral component of the Common Experience.”

On March 1, 2016 in the Scripps Cottage, Experience Movement Faculty Coordinator Joseph Alter will host a proposal development workshop. The workshop will offer a brief discussion on preparing proposals, integrating the Common Experience theme into courses, making connections to student services programming, and maximizing outreach to the campus community. Participants will also work in small groups to discuss and outline Experience Movement draft proposals.

For additional details you can contact:

Jose Preciado, Director of Academic Engagement Programs- preciado@mail.sdsu.edu

Experience Energy Faculty Coordinator Sarah Elkind, Phd.- selkind@mail.sdsu.edu

Experience Movement Faculty Coordinator Joseph Alter, MFA - jalter@mail.sdsu.edu