Grant Budget Guidelines
NetVUE Grants for Reframing the Institutional Saga

This document provides important information about the development of proposals and the preparation of budgets for NetVUE Grants for Reframing the Institutional Saga. A sample budget (along with notes on specific categories) can be found at the end of this document. Please use Microsoft Excel or a similar spreadsheet program to format your budget. Please also provide one to two pages of budget notes that explain the basis of the calculation for each item in the budget.

Grant funds may be used for a range of purposes, but not to substitute for faculty and staff costs that the institution is presently providing for its vocational exploration activities. Grant proposals may, however, include additional buyouts of faculty and staff time in pursuit of the aims of the project. In general, grant funds are intended to offset one-time costs of the process of reframing the institutional saga, as well as the creation of one or more written enduring products that reflect deep research and gather the results of this process.

In addition, please note the following important requirements:

- Capital expenditures, equipment purchases, the hiring of additional personnel (including graduate assistants), direct fundraising expenses, and indirect or overhead costs must be borne by the institution and are not eligible for support by the grant.
- In the case of stipends to current employees, the employer’s share of FICA (currently 7.65%) may be included, but the grant may not be used to support other personnel benefits, whether as a fixed sum or on a “fringe percentage” basis.
- Any speaker honoraria included in the grant proposal should be modest and not exceed $1,000 per speaker per day. (Further details about this policy may be found in the Frequently Asked Questions section below.)
- Travel, lodging, and meal expenses for participation in NetVUE conferences and gatherings are the responsibility of the institution and will not be covered by grant funds.
- The NetVUE Consultant and Campus Visit programs are funded separately and should not be included in the grant budget.

If any of the above items are included in grant proposal, they will be removed from the proposal and the total amount requested will be reduced accordingly. Applicants will not have the opportunity to revise the project to substitute other expenses for excluded items.

The remainder of this document is devoted to frequently asked questions concerning grant budget proposals. Applicants will increase their chances of success by reading and carefully following the advice that is offered here.
What categories should appear in the budget?

Please provide budget line items that match the expenditures proposed. Specific categories will depend upon the project described in the proposal. Typical budget categories are listed below and in the sample budget later in this document. For example:

- Released time for current employees to direct the proposed project, and/or to undertake writing and production of a book or edited volume that revises and/or updates the institution’s history, is an allowable grant expense. If the grant will provide such compensation to current employees, the budget should include the number of project leaders, administrative assistants, and/or authors of the project, as well as the cost per person (by dollar stipend or proportion of salary related to released time) and a subtotal. A stipend may be treated as extra compensation for the individual when the time commitment is not substantial and the work can be carried out while the individual continues with normal duties. Compensation in the form of released time from teaching is based on the assumption that the institution will spend this amount to replace those duties.

- When stipends are to be paid to employees of the institution, the budget may include a separate line item for the employer’s share of Social Security and Medicare tax (commonly known collectively as “FICA,” currently 7.65%) that would normally be paid by the institution for employee wages. Note: If this line item is not included, the institution will be responsible for covering this expense. Grant funds may not be reallocated at a later date to cover these costs.

- The costs of lodging, meals, and transportation for retreats are allowable grant expenditures. Budgets for lodging should include the number of participants projected, the number of lodging nights, the cost per night and a subtotal. Similarly, budgets for meals should provide the projected number of participants, amount per meal per participant and a subtotal. Any transportation expenses should indicate a cost estimate per person, number of persons, and a subtotal.

- Speaker honoraria should indicate the number of speakers, amount per speaker, number of days, and subtotal. See below for more information regarding NetVUE policy on honoraria.

- Expenditures listed for books, other reading materials, or supplies should indicate the number of copies of the texts, documents, or other items, and a subtotal.

- Expenditures related to the creation of the final product (book or other materials reflecting substantial research) should be itemized by the type of expense.

- Other expenses that do not fit the above categories should be included in a separate “Other” category (with an explanation in the notes).

What rows/columns should be included in the budget?

Please create separate lines for distinct categories of expenses as described above, and columns as noted below; see the sample budget for further details. Each grant year should have a separate set of line items (rows).

- **NetVUE Request**: In a distinct column, the budget should display clearly the projected expenses to be supported by grant funds. Please remember that the grant funds will be disbursed in two equal payments at the beginning of the first and second years of the grant.
• **Institutional:** If institutional funds are being used to support the project, a second column should be added with this designation for each year (as per the sample budget below). Please note: although institutional funds are not required as part of this grant initiative, it may be helpful to include this column to clarify institutional commitments to the project and to plan for later dissemination of the final product(s).

• **Total:** The amount equals the sum for each row and column.

**What is the NetVUE policy for honoraria for speakers and facilitators?**

NetVUE limits honoraria to $1,000 per speaker or facilitator per day from NetVUE grant funds for a given occasion. When a speaker addresses more than one group or occasion on the campus, a higher honorarium may be offered; however, any amount beyond $1,000 must come from institutional funds. Please note that honoraria are not meant to support ongoing projects, long-term scholars in residence, or multiple instances of the same workshop or presentation. Instead, honoraria are generally intended to support single visits to the institution.

**What types of expenses are not allowed?**

Grant funds may be used for a range of purposes, but not for:

- Ongoing faculty and staff costs that the institution is presently providing;
- New personnel lines, including the hiring of additional faculty, staff, and/or graduate students for purposes of grant activities or administration;
- Benefits beyond 7.65% for the employer’s share of Social Security and Medicare tax;
- Capital expenditures, including equipment purchases;
- Direct fundraising expenses; or
- Indirect or overhead costs.

**May the grant proposal include funding requests for NetVUE consultants or campus visits?**

No. NetVUE provides a separate process to apply for funding for campus consultants or campus visits. See the NetVUE website for details or contact David S. Cunningham, director of NetVUE, at dcunningham@cic.nche.edu or (616) 395-6750.

**May grant funds be used to attend NetVUE conferences and gatherings?**

No. While NetVUE covers most lodging and meal expenses for participants at its conferences and gatherings, travel expenses for participation are the responsibility of the institution and cannot be covered by NetVUE grant funds.

**What if changes in the approved grant budget are needed?**

NetVUE grant recipients are expected to expend funds as outlined in the approved budget. However, variances in expenditures (compared with the proposed budget) are sometimes necessary. If a variance of more than 20 percent in a line item is expected, the grant recipient should
request a reallocation of funds as early as possible, and no later than three months prior to the end of the grant spending period. Please send requests to Lynn Hunnicutt, assistant director of NetVUE, at lhunnicutt@cic.nche.edu. Reallocation requests should provide a revised budget, as well as a rationale for the change; the former should be formatted to show the original budget and the requested revision, so that these may be easily compared. The request will be reviewed and, if approved, the revised budget will become the basis for subsequent budget reports.

Can funds be used beyond the stated grant period?

Funds should be expended by the grant spending deadline. In rare instances, NetVUE has considered an extension of no more than 60 days beyond the spending deadline. Requests for extensions should be made at least three months prior to the end of the grant period to Lynn Hunnicutt, assistant director of NetVUE (see contact information below).

What happens to unexpended funds at the end of the grant period?

At the end of the grant period, residual funds of more than $250 must be returned to the Council of Independent Colleges and will be used to support future NetVUE grant programs.

Additional questions?

Please contact Lynn Hunnicutt, assistant director of NetVUE, at lhunnicutt@cic.nche.edu or (253) 535-7644.
### NetVUE sample budget: Reframing the Institutional Saga

#### REVENUES

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<tr>
<th></th>
<th>NetVUE</th>
<th>Institutional</th>
<th>TOTAL</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>NetVUE grant funds (year one)</td>
<td>$20,000.00</td>
<td>$20,000.00</td>
<td>$40,000.00</td>
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<tr>
<td>NetVUE grant funds (year two)</td>
<td>$20,000.00</td>
<td>$20,000.00</td>
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<tr>
<td>Institutional funds spent during grant period</td>
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<td>$6,600.00</td>
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<td><strong>Totals</strong></td>
<td>$40,000.00</td>
<td>$6,600.00</td>
<td>$46,600.00</td>
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#### EXPENDITURES

**Year One:**

**Writing Group Opening Retreat**
- Meals: 11 participants for 4 days @ $75/day
  - NetVUE: $1,300
  - Institutional: $2,000
  - TOTAL: $3,300
- Lodging: 11 participants staying 3 nights @ $80/night
  - NetVUE: $2,640
  - Institutional: $2,640
  - TOTAL: $5,280
- Transportation: 400 miles for 3 vehicles @ $.54/mile
  - NetVUE: $648
  - Institutional: $648
  - TOTAL: $1,296
- Transport: ferry to retreat center for 11 participants
  - NetVUE: $400
  - Institutional: $400
  - TOTAL: $800

**Writing Group Meetings**
- Lunch for 10 participants x 4 meetings x $10 per meal
  - NetVUE: $400
  - Institutional: $400
  - TOTAL: $800

**Writing Group Year 1 Stipends**
- Spring Semester: 10 participants @$500 each
  - NetVUE: $5,000
  - Institutional: $5,000
  - TOTAL: $10,000
- Fall Semester: 10 participants @$500 each
  - NetVUE: $5,000
  - Institutional: $5,000
  - TOTAL: $10,000
- FICA for stipends
  - NetVUE: $765
  - Institutional: $765
  - TOTAL: $1,530

**Materials and supplies**
- 1 book x 10 participants @ $26 plus copying/printing of other materials
  - NetVUE: $473
  - Institutional: $473
  - TOTAL: $946

**Project oversight**
- Project director @ 3,000/course x 1 course
  - NetVUE: $3,000
  - Institutional: $3,000
  - TOTAL: $6,000
- FICA (7.65%) for two course replacements
  - NetVUE: $230
  - Institutional: $230
  - TOTAL: $460
| Year One Total | $19,855 | $2,000 | $21,855 |
**Year Two:**

Research travel for writing team members
- Travel subsidy for 10 writing group members @ $750 each  
  $3,750  

Writing Group Meetings
- Lunch for 10 participants x 4 meetings x $10 per meal  
  $400  

Writing Group Year 2 Stipends
- Spring Semester 10 participants @ $500 each  
  $5,000  
- Fall Semester 10 participants @ $500 each  
  $5,000  
- FICA for stipends  
  $765  

Presentation Event to the Campus Community
- Event Space Rental  
  $350  
- Buffet Meal for 100 @ $25 per person  
  $2,000  

Project oversight
- Project director @ 3,000/course x 1 course  
  $3,000  
- FICA (7.65%) for two course replacements  
  $230  

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<tr>
<td>Year Two Total</td>
<td>$20,145</td>
<td>$4,600</td>
<td>$24,745</td>
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TOTAL: Two-Year Budget
- $40,000  
- $6,600  
- $46,600
Year One:

Writing Group Retreat

- Opening retreat over spring break at a retreat center located 200 miles from campus. Lodging for three nights at $80 per night per participant and meals for four days at $75 per day per participant, for ten writing group members plus a senior university administrator.
- Transportation to the retreat center includes a ferry ride of approximately 35 miles one way, at a round trip cost of $33 per person (plus tax).

Writing Group Meetings

- On-campus lunch meetings (two per semester) to check in on progress and coordinate common logistical questions and issues. Buffet-style lunch will be served, at a cost of $10 per person per meeting.

Writing Group Stipends

- Total stipend per person for year 1 of $1,000, divided into two halves, to be paid in June and December.
- Social Security and Medicare tax (FICA) of 7.65% of stipend amount will be paid using grant funds.

Materials and Supplies

- *At This Time and In This Place* will be used as an introduction to the concept of vocation and institutional calling. Cost = $26 per book x 10 books. Selected readings from other sources will be provided on the project’s course management site as background material regarding the University’s founding mission.

Project Oversight

- The project director will receive one course release to work with fellow participants on their contributions and to handle logistical issues related to production of this edited volume. Grant funds will be used to pay Social Security and Medicare tax (FICA) of 7.65% for the replacement instructor hired to teach this course.

Year Two:

Research travel for writing team members

- The university provides faculty $1,000 annually for travel to conferences. Each participant will receive an additional $750 to be used for archival research, or for travel to an additional conference related to the project. The grant will provide $375 per participant of this research-related travel support and the university will supply the remainder.

Writing Group Meetings/Writing Group Stipends

- As in year one.

Presentation Event to the Campus Community

- Writing team members will present and discuss their work at a special meeting of the university’s board, which will be open to board members, faculty members, staff, and selected alumni. This event will take place in a nearby event center owned by an alumnus who has offered a discounted space rental of $350 and catering for a buffet dinner at $25 per person.

Project Oversight

- As in year one.