



## **Innovation Scholarship Awards Program**

The jCENTER for Innovative Higher Education announces an awards program to support scholarship on innovation and change in higher education. The inaugural awards program will support scholarship that focuses on innovation and change in the small private college sector.

Learn more about the [jCENTER](#).

### **Innovation in Small Private Colleges**

Small private colleges are facing significant financial challenges due to high discount rates, small endowments, and increasing competition from other market entrants. The future of the sector depends on the next generation of leaders having the skills, knowledge, and competencies to lead these institutions in an uncertain future.

jCENTER programming supports innovation and change in small private colleges. The Center offers design thinking workshops, retreats, and a 12-credit graduate certificate, [“Emerging Leaders in Private Colleges”](#).

### **Request for Proposals**

The 2016 awards program supports scholarly research that focuses on innovation, leadership, and change in the small private college sector. We seek 1,000-word proposals that offer original contributions on these topics ranging from theory to practice pieces, case studies, and other empirical works. We especially encourage proposals that are anchored within jCENTER’s conceptual view of innovation, which is found in the white paper entitled, [“Perspectives on Innovation in Higher Education: A Framing Document for the Jandris Center for Innovative Higher Education \(Martinez, 2013\)”](#)

Eligibility for the award is limited to advanced graduate students and professionals within five years of completing the doctorate.

Award criteria are as follows:

- Focused on innovation and change in small private colleges
- Originality and creativity of approach
- Conceptual rigor and tie to disciplinary literature on organizations (e.g., organizational theory or related field)
- Soundness of methodology (for pieces proposing empirical research)
- Potential to contribute new ways of thinking/new knowledge related to innovation and change in small private colleges
- Potential to launch new lines of scholarship on innovation and change in the small private college sector

Awardees will be selected by a panel of practitioners and scholars who serve as members of the jCENTER's Small Private Colleges Advisory Council.

Awardees will receive the following:

- \$2,500 cash award and recognition as award winner
- Publication opportunity with the jCENTER
- Webinar/public forum showcasing the work sponsored by the jCENTER

Date:

Applications due May 9, 2016. Research findings will be highlighted for a spring 2017 public forum/webinar. Send proposals and questions to Dr. Gary Engstrand c/o the jCenter, [jcenter@umn.edu](mailto:jcenter@umn.edu)

### **About the jCENTER**

The higher education landscape is changing rapidly as economic, demographic, political, and technological forces reshape purposes, policies, and practices of colleges and universities. The jCENTER strives to create an imaginative, dynamic community committed to addressing the most pressing problems facing higher education. In doing so, the Center brings together people and groups to critique and redesign postsecondary policies and practices to meet the needs of a changing world.

The Center was established with a planned gift from alumnus, Thomas P. Jandris. Founded in 2010, our community is comprised of faculty, graduate students, University of Minnesota alumni, higher education leaders, and affiliates who are engaged in shaping the future of higher education in local and national contexts.