October 24, 2011

BOSTON COLLEGE
Office of the Executive Director for Academic Technology

Dear Colleague:

I am writing to tell you about a new academic technology opportunity we have at Boston College and to offer you the chance to become involved.

Several years ago, Boston College developed a software application, called MediaKron, which allows faculty to create and juxtapose media-rich content in creative ways. That development was funded through a Davis Educational Foundation grant and has yielded more than twenty-five active Boston College sites ranging from the history of Chinese popular culture to an interdisciplinary approach to studying Dante.

This summer, the Davis Educational Foundation offered us another grant to build upon the MediaKron work we’ve done and to invite other institutions to join in a community of scholarship around the use of the tool. We are seeking five partner institutions to develop two projects each over the next two years.

I invite you to look at a sampling of our BC projects at www.bc.edu/tmkp and to read the attached Call for Proposals. While we are looking for partners who will actively participate in the creation of new projects, there is no fee attached while we are under the grant.

Please contact us if you have any questions at tmkp@bc.edu. We look forward to your response.

All the best,

Rita R. Owens
Executive Director for Academic Technology
Office of the Provost
Principal Investigator
CALL FOR PROPOSALS:

ENHANCING THE PEDAGOGY USING MULTI-MODAL TECHNOLOGY: BROADENING THE REACH TO A MULTI-INSTITUTIONAL COMMUNITY

MediaKron is an online tool for presenting and exploring multimedia course content. It provides an easy way for instructors to upload and organize a variety of instructional materials and enables students to explore this content from a web browser. Each object entered into the database can have a variety of metadata attached to it, including topics, tags, geographic location, and date. Each type of metadata corresponds to a different interface in MediaKron, enabling instructors to create variety of pathways for organizing content. Topics create sequentially ordered slideshows, tags enable items to be flexibly grouped with several different kinds of related items, locations allow items to show up on a map, and dates put items on a timeline to create a visual representation of chronology. In this way, multiple relationships can be created among items and users have control over viewing content differently as they navigate through the interfaces, filtering content in a variety of ways.

MediaKron was created by Boston College with funding from the Davis Educational Foundation. Boston College now seeks to expand MediaKron’s usage across higher education institutions in order to form a learning community to enable the tool to become self-sustainable and serve as a conduit to innovation and digital scholarship for faculty and students.

Boston College seeks five external higher education institutions to produce two projects each to participate in the MediaKron Project. Each institution must:

• Have a process in place to adopt and integrate instructional technology into your curricula
• Demonstrate a commitment to the use of MediaKron and to participation in the learning community
• Assign a liaison between the institution and Boston College
• Propose innovative projects that are applicable to the use of MediaKron
• Be able to travel for training and presentations

Applications are due by December 1, 2011.

For more information on MediaKron, including the project timeline and how to apply: www.bc.edu/tmkp.

Questions?
Email: tmkp@bc.edu
Phone: 617-552-2773

The grant was received from the Davis Educational Foundation established by Stanton and Elisabeth Davis after Mr. Davis’s retirement as chairman of Shaw’s Supermarkets, Inc.