



TO: All Faculty

FROM: John McLain, on Behalf of the Academic Deans

DATE: January 4, 2017

SUBJECT: **2017-18 PLATO Lecture Series Call for Proposals**

Royalties received from the PLATO computer-aided instruction materials developed at Evergreen in the 1980s support an annual lecture series on computer related topics. Computer reliability and SDI, computers in the arts, software engineering, artificial intelligence, and the Internet are some of the themes from past lecture series.

The academic deans invite proposals for the 2017-18 PLATO Lecture Series from interested faculty.

Proposals should be submitted by email to sponsres@evergreen.edu, by Friday, February 3, 2017.

Approximately \$5,000 will be available to support the lecture series in 2017-18. Recipients should plan to complete the series and finalize all expenditures against the award by June 30, 2018.

The deans will then select the winning proposal for the coming academic year.

Proposals must address these criteria, established when the series was created:

- 1) The purpose of the lecture series is to enhance the understanding of computing within the liberal arts tradition, both at Evergreen and in the larger Olympia community. Topics need not be restricted to computer science narrowly defined, although one primary audience for the series should be students with an interest in computing and/or computer science. In addition to technical topics, the lecture series may focus on the impact of computers and information technology on society or on applications of computers in the arts or humanities, for example. Ideally, each series should:
 - a) expose students and the general community to state-of-the-art research in computer science and/or developments in computer applications;

- b) provide opportunities for public, interdisciplinary consideration of important social issues raised by computers and other information technologies;
 - c) provide sustained faculty development opportunities for the faculty most directly involved in the series;
 - d) coordinate with several academic programs and with external groups, so as to reach a large audience;
- 2) In addition, a successful proposal (or subsequent discussion) should leave the deans confident of the willingness and ability of the proposer(s) to take on the responsibilities of administering the series and obtaining suitable speakers. It should identify a single faculty member who will have primary responsibility for coordinating the series.
- 3) The funding for the series is not to be used merely to provide substitutes for faculty or to replace state support for computer studies. The annual public lecture series is instead to be an enhancement to the curriculum.

Faculty who have questions about the PLATO Lecture Series or want advice about developing a proposal should contact John McLain (360-867-6045; mclainj@evergreen.edu).

More information is at this web site: www.evergreen.edu/sponsoredresearch/plato.