“Fearless Ideas” Courses RFP

www.innovation.umd.edu
Fearless Ideas Courses: What Are They?

• Experiential “Fearless Ideas” courses related to innovation and entrepreneurship
• Provide students with skills and mindset to develop and/or launch their Fearless Ideas
• Initially seeking ~10 new courses or revised existing courses (e.g., I-Series) targeting launch in the 2014-2015 academic year
• Helps achieve President Loh’s goal of weaving innovation and entrepreneurship throughout the UMD student experience
Fearless Ideas Courses:

Goals

• To develop innovators with skills to tackle real-world challenges by:
  – quickly, relentlessly, and iteratively hypothesizing, experimenting, and learning from both successful and failed experiments
  – challenging students to take risks, seek non-obvious solutions, and think outside the box
  – fostering collaborative teams with diverse majors, skills, experiences, cultures, and viewpoints
  – incorporating discovery-based/experiential learning into the curriculum
Fearless Ideas Courses: Examples

- Innovation/Design Thinking
- Innovation tailored to a specific field of study
- Lean Start-up Methodology
- Entrepreneurship tailored to a specific field of study
“Design thinking is an innovation process that can be applied to nearly any challenge. It is human-centered, prototype driven, and mindful of process. The solutions that emerge from a design thinking project may be products, environments, processes, experiences, policies, and more. A multidisciplinary approach ensures that solutions are technologically feasible, viable in the marketplace, and desirable and sustainable for human beings.”
“We partner with outside organizations to give students **real world problems** to solve.”

“The d.school is focused on creating **innovaTORS**, not **innovaTIONS**.”

“...repeat the cycle of innovation as many times as possible to develop intuition and fluency ...”

“design thinking ... allows them to collaborate in radical ways”

“We do not grant degrees, but we have been accidentally responsible for majorly interrupting student’s life plans.”
600+ UMD Students Getting Design Thinking This Fall

“We couldn’t be more different, except for our shared values. And that makes working together enjoyable.”

ERICA ESTRADA

WHO’S HERE IN 2012-2013
The Lean Startup Movement in Entrepreneurship

NSF I-Corps Highlighted

Why the Lean Start-Up Changes Everything

by Steve Blank
UMD Teaching Lean Startup to Universities and NIH
Fearless Ideas Courses: Selection

• By a cross-campus course approval committee
• Initially seeking ~10 courses representing:
  – a wide range of academic disciplines
  – a mix of lower level (100/200) and upper level (300/400) courses (graduate level courses will also be considered)
  – a mix of courses including those that may satisfy requirements for specific majors, minors, and general education requirements (e.g., Scholarship in Practice or I-Series adapted to Fearless Ideas)
Fearless Ideas Courses: Timeline

- RFP Released: October 1, 2013
- Pre-proposals Due: November 11, 2013
- Approved Pre-Proposals Announced: November 18, 2013
- Proposals Due: January 15, 2014
- Courses Selected: January 31, 2014
Fearless Ideas Courses: WE NEED YOUR HELP!

• Faculty - let us know if you are interested. We can answer questions and work with you on developing your Fearless Ideas Course.
• This RFP can supplement qualifying courses and programs that already exist or are already in development
• Please share this RFP with your colleagues and let us know your ideas for courses and/or faculty who would be great as Fearless Ideas instructors
• Contact Kim Wallace (kkw03@umd.edu) or Dean Chang (deanc@umd.edu)