IGSET Grant Supports Development of New Online Master's Program

Five faculty members in the ETC department received funding through Missouri S&T's Ignition Grants for Sustainable Educational Transformation (IGSET) to lay the groundwork for a future online Master of Science in Communication, Media, and Technology.

With this funding, the team will design a set of asynchronous, 8-week graduate courses that integrate digital media, technical communication, and emerging communication technologies to meet the needs of modern communication careers.

The awarded project, titled "Establishing Groundwork for a New Master of Science in Communication, Media, and Technology," supports curriculum development rather than full degree launch. While the university approval process for new degree programs continues separately, this initiative will provide the academic and design infrastructure necessary to advance the proposal.

Dr. Eric Bryan, one of the IGSET grant recipients, is geared up and eager to go fully online and asynchronous in his teaching. He is developing two courses for the new MS: (1) Discourse Analysis and (2) Technology and Humanity. His research areas include Scandinavian folklore, medieval language and literature, and pragmatic linguistic analyses of medieval texts.

The IGSET award totals $72,000, with $8,000 allocated to each graduate course developed or redesigned. Funding is awarded directly to the faculty who are responsible for creating these courses, in recognition of the significant time and expertise required to design high-quality online learning that meets Missouri S&T's standards for accessibility and instructional effectiveness.

The following courses are being developed or redesigned through this project:

- User Experience and Interface Design
- Web-Based Communication
- Persuasive AI
- Advanced Video Design
- Interactive Multimedia Design
- Visual Rhetorics and Design
- Intercultural Communication
- Discourse Analysis
- Technology and Humanity

These nine courses reflect the diverse strengths of the project team: victoria braegger, Ryan Cheek, David Wright, Sarah Hercula, and Eric Bryan. Their combined expertise spans user experience, technical communication, digital media, applied linguistics, and rhetorical studies, positioning the proposed degree to respond to evolving industry needs.

The new coursework will be developed in collaboration with Missouri S&T instructional designers. All courses produced through the grant must pass the university's Quality Course Review to ensure clear learning pathways, equitable access, and strong online pedagogy. The award letter also noted that an intellectual property agreement will be finalized before funds are disbursed.