

**TEACHING CENTER  
TRAVEL GRANT APPLICATION FORM 2022-23**

Please submit the completed application electronically to [teachingcenter@belmont.edu](mailto:teachingcenter@belmont.edu).

*Deadline for Fall 2022: Tuesday, September 13 at 4:00 p.m.*

*Deadline for Spring 2023: Tuesday, February 7 at 4:00 p.m.*

Late or incomplete applications will not be considered.

**Name: Amanda C. Miller**

**Date of Application: Sept. 9, 2022**

**Department/Academic Unit: College of Theology and Christian Ministry**

**Name of the Conference: Original Lilly Conference on College Teaching**

**Location of the Conference: Oxford, OH**

**Conference Date(s): Nov. 17-19, 2022**

\*\*\*\*\*

**You may wish to refer to the Travel Grant Guidelines as you complete the application.**

*Do not leave any of the numbered sections blank.*

**1. Indicate your primary reasons for participating in this conference.**

The Lilly Conference on College Teaching is one of the premier gatherings around the scholarship of teaching and learning, and I am excited to be attending and presenting at it this year. It has a combination of plenary and concurrent sessions, as well as optional roundtable meal discussions between presenters and attendees. I went to Lilly once before, in 2015, and learned many techniques that I was able to implement immediately in my Belmont courses, so I am eager to return, this time as participant and presenter both. In particular, I enjoy the interdisciplinary nature of the Lilly conferences. When I attend my disciplinary meetings through the Society of Biblical Literature and the American Academy of Religion, I attend and learn from sessions focused on teaching within our discipline of theological and biblical studies. But the richness of being in conversation with colleagues from the sciences, humanities, languages, and other fields of study is a valuable part of the Lilly Conference.

Two of my current growing edges regarding my pedagogy are creating inclusive and equitable classrooms, and improving the effectiveness of feedback for myself and students. In that regard, two of the plenary speakers at Lilly this year will be particularly helpful in those areas. Rita Kumar and Brenda G. Refaei are leading a plenary session on inclusive teaching, and Thomas A. Angelo has a plenary on strategies for making feedback more efficient for professor and more effective for students. These addresses will build on the two Teaching Center reading groups in which I participated in Summer 2022: *Ungrading* (improving assessment) and *The Sum of Us* (racial justice and inclusion).

Finally, as mentioned above, I will be presenting a 60-minute workshop with Dr. Beth Ritter-Conn. It is entitled "Seeing More Clearly: Teaching Empathy and Critical Thinking Through Counter-Narrative." We will lead the workshop on Friday afternoon, and at dinner that

evening will host a roundtable discussion on the same topics. This project is based on a course we both teach regularly, HON 1120 Engaging the Bible and Culture.

## **2. Identify specific ways this conference will enhance your teaching at Belmont.**

Rita Kumar and Brenda G. Refaei are leading a plenary session on using “self-reflection to engage in inclusive teaching, create inclusive curricula, and implement inclusive pedagogy.” The presentation that I am doing together with Dr. Beth Ritter-Conn deals with the use of counter-narrative in creating empathy and improving inclusivity in the classroom, so I am hopeful that there will be opportunity for productive dialogue around these issues. Beth and I are also leading a roundtable discussion at dinner Friday evening, so that will be another avenue for teaching and learning around these issues. As I mentioned in response to the previous question, this is a pressing area in my own pedagogical growth, and for Belmont as institution. As a current member of the Faculty Inclusivity, Diversity, and Equity committee, I am hopeful that I can use the learning opportunity at the conference to impact not just my own students, but resources for other Belmont faculty as well. This topic is central to all of my courses, but several where it will be particularly relevant are REL 3210 Gender and the Bible, HON 1120 Engaging the Bible and Culture, REL 4250 Life of Christ, and REL 4260 Life and Letters of Paul.

Several individual concurrent sessions will also impact my Belmont teaching. For example, one session that will be particularly helpful for my work with Belmont Honors students abroad in Spring 2023 is related to international collaborations for learning and pedagogy in a global context. I will be teaching the Honors course Engaging Religion and Culture, with particular attention to our international context. Another presentation on embodied pedagogy has potential to help my Greek students (REL 1150, 1160, 2150, 2160, and 3150) use alternate learning strategies to incorporate translation concepts on a deeper level, and students in my project-based biblical studies courses to do discussion in unique ways involving the body and mind both. I also mentioned above the session on feedback by Thomas Angelo, which has the potential for immediate impact in my Junior Cornerstone Seminars (e.g., REL 3015 Jesus in the Gospels and Film) that focus on collaborative learning and projects.

<http://celt.miamioh.edu/lillycon/presenters.php?session=11028&year=2022> (Angelo session)

<http://celt.miamioh.edu/lillycon/presenters.php?session=11024&year=2022> (Kumar and Refaei session)

<http://celt.miamioh.edu/lillycon/presenters.php?session=11052&year=2022> (Miller + Ritter-Conn session)

<http://celt.miamioh.edu/lillycon/presenters.php?session=11073&year=2022> (Zhang-Pearlman-Kegler session)

<http://celt.miamioh.edu/lillycon/presenters.php?session=11072&year=2022> (Zavota session)

## **3. Funds from other sources**

Given our limited ability to fund proposals, the Teaching Center expects that an applicant will typically seek funds from other Belmont sources as well (including, for example, the standard college-level faculty travel allotment, additional faculty development funds available within your college, and service learning grants if applicable).

I will supplement the Teaching Center Grant for this conference with my continuing education budget from the CTCM. However, I need to use the bulk of my CTCM funds to attend another conference in person and carry out my leadership duties there, which is why I am grateful for the Teaching Center’s grant program. I am happily joining the Teaching Center van group, but maybe need ground transportation to a nearby airport after the conference (hence the \$60 estimate in the proposed budget below)

#### 4. Conference Expenses

Please provide a **breakdown of expenses and a total** (e.g., airfare, hotel, and so forth). For lodging, indicate how many nights. Refer to the *Belmont University Travel Policy* for information about specific expenses such as mileage reimbursement and per diems. If your application is approved for a grant, the Teaching Center will fund at most \$750 for an in-person conference and at most \$400 for an online conference.

	<b>Estimated Expenses</b>
<i>Registration fee</i>	\$475
<i>Airfare</i>	\$0
<i>Transportation</i> Ground transportation, mileage, or rental	\$60
<i>Lodging</i> ____ 2 ____ nights at ____ \$75 + tax ____ per night	~\$200
<i>Meals</i>	\$134
<i>Other</i> (please specify)	
<b><i>Total Expenses</i></b>	\$869
<i>Anticipated Contribution from other Sources</i>	\$119
<i>Amount requested from Teaching Center</i> <b><i>(\$750 maximum for in-person, \$400 maximum for online)</i></b>	\$750

#### 5. Identify other issues that are pertinent in the consideration of this application or indicate that there are none.

None

6. Please be aware that the Teaching Center will likely ask grant recipients to share what was learned at the conference with the Belmont community in a public forum of some sort.

**Describe below your preference for sharing your conference experience, in general or in a specific format or venue** (e.g., workshop, discussion group, presentation, blog post).

I am open to any of those formats, and would welcome the opportunity to share my learning with the wider Belmont community, with the caveat that I will be teaching in Belfast, Northern Ireland in the spring 2023 semester.

***Do not leave any of the numbered sections blank.***