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Subject: December 9th: Byrne Seminar Proposals Due
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Dear Faculty Colleagues,

A new academic year is on the horizon and I am writing to invite you to submit a proposal to teach a Byrne First-Year Seminar during 2017-18.

Currently in its ninth year, the Byrne Seminars Program connects Rutgers faculty with our new students as they begin their undergraduate study. Byrne Seminars are intended to bring students and faculty members together to explore research questions and to introduce students to the range of intellectual and career possibilities available to them at Rutgers.

These one-credit seminars typically meet for ten eighty-minute sessions and are graded Pass/No Credit. Faculty members teach these courses in addition to their regular teaching assignments, and receive a stipend to support their research. Faculty who are selected to teach a Byrne will receive research support of \$2,500, and co-taught faculty Byrnes will receive \$2,000 per faculty member in the course with a maximum of two.

We are always happy to have the opportunity to support local fieldtrips that complement your course. We encourage you to think creatively about how we can help you bring your research to life for students through our ongoing enrichment program. Faculty have taken students on city and site tours, to museums and laboratories, to study buildings, beaches, and cemeteries, on boat rides and to ballgames, and to films, concerts, and shows. So as you think about how you might explain the complexity of what you do to first-year students, give some thought to how a fieldtrip might help you in that process.

Each year, we highlight a particular theme. Looking ahead, we will honor our ten-year anniversary in 2017-2018 with the theme: ***Celebrating a Decade of Discovery***.

This year at Rutgers-New Brunswick we celebrate the Byrne Seminars' "Decade of Discovery." Launched in Fall 2007, these first-year seminars were named to honor Dorothy and John J. Byrne. Supported by a generous donation from the Byrne family, these seminars were created to introduce first-year students to research at the outset of their academic career.

During these ten years, the Byrne Program has grown significantly. In our inaugural year, just over 1,100 students took a Byrne; in our most recent academic year we had more than 3,200. Likewise, the number of seminars has almost doubled from 110 to over 200. Byrne Seminars have included faculty from 18 schools and institutes across the university, exploring various themes from *Re-Imagining the City* to *The Politics of Knowledge*. In total, over 20,000 first-year students have enjoyed these special opportunities to learn from senior faculty in low-pressure, high-quality classes.

This year we hope to revisit the best of our past accomplishments while exploring new ways to awaken our students to the joy at the heart of all academic inquiry and research. Please join our decennial celebration by proposing a Byrne seminar, whether new or old, that draws upon the exciting research you are engaged in now.

The Byrne Seminar Faculty Review Committee will assess and select the seminars to ensure a broad range of topics that meet this year's theme. We ask you to think about how you will share the creative, exciting nature of your research with first-year students, inviting them into the research culture of Rutgers.

For more information about the program, please visit our website at <http://byrne.rutgers.edu>. Seminar proposals are due by **December 9, 2016**; you may submit your proposal through our online system <https://byrne.rutgers.edu/faculty-resources/call-for-proposals>.

The Byrne Seminars Program is one of the most exciting intellectual experiences we provide to our undergraduate students. We hope that you will join us.

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