We are pleased to announce that dB-SERC can provide travel and lodging support to faculty members in the natural science departments at Pitt who are interested in visiting another university to learn about how to adopt and adapt a particular instructional innovation in their classes. It can be useful to observe the classes which are using certain instructional innovation because it can provide a tangible understanding of what the innovation looks like in practice. dB-SERC can provide travel and lodging support for faculty members who want to visit classrooms at other universities and to talk to the people engaged in those innovations (up to $1000 maximum award). Alternatively, dB-SERC can also provide travel and lodging support for faculty members who wish to attend an education conference to attend workshops related to instructional innovation if they are planning to adapt/adopt it in Pitt natural sciences classes for majors or non-majors.

In order to be eligible to receive travel support, a faculty member MUST be a full-time faculty in the nine natural sciences department at Pitt and must be wanting to adopt or adapt a particular instructional innovation in his/her own classes at Pitt in the near future (within one year of the visit). We request that the faculty member(s) awarded the travel grant lead a dB-SERC lunch discussion on the instructional innovation he/she plans to implement in their own course (before implementing it) to receive feedback from dB-SERC and affiliates.

dB-SERC is happy to provide consultation with regard to implementation and assessment of an instructional innovation. Email the dB-SERC post-doc, Dr. Alexandru Maries at alm195@pitt.edu if you would like consultation. In addition, the dB-SERC website (dbserc.pitt.edu) includes information which can be helpful in designing an evaluation plan (e.g., contains a list of established assessments in each natural science discipline and information about evidence-based teaching strategies).