



## Faculty and Staff Grant Application Questions 2026-2027

**\*New in 2026\*** All applications must be submitted online at <https://glendale.edu/foundationgrantsapply> by **11:59 pm on Friday, May 29, 2026**. Late submissions will not be accepted (and the online application form will close automatically after the deadline).

The following list of application questions is provided to help you plan your application, which must be submitted online. Paper submissions will not be accepted.

### 2026 - 2027 FACULTY AND STAFF GRANT PROGRAM APPLICATION QUESTIONS

#### Section 1: Applicant

Name: Ranell Holmes

GCC Position: Director of Enterprise Applications

Department: Information Technology Services

Campus: Verdugo

E-mail: [rholmes@glendale.edu](mailto:rholmes@glendale.edu)

Phone: (747) 372-1465

Dean or Department Head's Name: Michael Diaquino

#### Section 2: Project Proposal

Name of Project/Program: IT Governance

Please check which category best describes your project:

Arts & Culture

Athletics & Fitness

Career & Work  
Training

College Operations  
& Facilities

Humanities/Social  
Sciences

Science &  
Technology

Other

Amount requested: \$8,939

## Narrative Questions

### 1. What do you propose to do?

I want to deepen my expertise in AI governance so I can bring concrete, actionable value back to Glendale Community College. The college is actively navigating what AI means for our operations, how faculty teach, and how we protect student data. To do this responsibly, we need clear policy direction and strong governance practices. Developing that governance muscle falls squarely within my role as Director of ERP and Enterprise Applications.

This grant would support four professional development activities: an AI governance course through UCLA Extension, attendance at the EDUCAUSE Annual Conference, attendance at AfroTech, and attendance at South by Southwest (SXSW). Together, these opportunities provide both structured learning in AI governance frameworks and direct exposure to how practitioners at the leading edge of AI are approaching adoption, ethics, and policy across higher education and the broader technology sector.

I plan to document what I learn and translate it into practical guidance, recommendations, and resources that I can realistically apply as we shape our approach to AI.

### 2. Who will be involved in the project/program?

This is for professional development, and I would be the primary participant. The ERPOps team I lead is responsible for the systems and integrations that would be most directly affected by any AI adoption at GCC. I see this work as building capacity not just for myself, but for the overall team.

I also plan to share what I learn with a broader set of stakeholders across the college, including the Change Advisory Group (CAG), IT leadership, and AI governance group and other committees that are already dealing with AI-related policy questions. My goal is to bring back practical frameworks and real-world examples that can help guide GCC's approach to AI in a meaningful way.

### 3. What are the benefits of this project/program to the students, college, and the community?

For the college, the most immediate benefit is having someone on staff who understands AI governance not just in theory, but through current, hands-on exposure to how it's being addressed in practice. AI isn't a future concern at GCC it's a current



topic. The college needs internal expertise to help shape policy and guide those decisions responsibly, and right now there is a strong need to keep up with the trends.

EDUCAUSE is particularly valuable because it is the leading conference for higher education technology professionals. Its programming focuses directly on AI integration, AI governance, and IT leadership within community colleges and universities.

AfroTech adds another important dimension by connecting me with a network of technologists and leaders working on AI. Bringing those perspectives back to GCC would help move AI initiatives along.

4. How does this project/program support the College’s Institutional Strategic Plan?

Priority B, Success: to train 100% of faculty in the responsible and ethical use of AI by 2030. Reaching that goal requires more than training alone, it depends on having the right governance structures and internal expertise in place. This professional development directly prepares me to help lead that work and build the foundation needed to support faculty at scale.

This request also aligns with Priority C, Support, particularly the goal of improving the efficiency and effectiveness of enterprise-wide technology systems. AI governance is not separate from how we manage our ERP and integration environment; it is becoming important to it. The EDUCAUSE programming on AI, data analytics, and AI governance directly reflects GCC’s current technology priorities and the challenges we are actively working through.

Finally, the equity perspective I will gain through AfroTech aligns with Priority A, Inclusion, and the college’s commitment to embedding equity into all institutional processes. Bringing that lens into AI governance work helps ensure that the systems, policies, and decisions we make serve all members of our campus community thoughtfully and responsibly.

5. Timeline for the project/program.

- UCLA Extension AI Governance course: Fall 2026 term (enrollment target: September 2026)
- EDUCAUSE Annual Conference: September 29 - October 2, 2026, Denver, CO
- AfroTech Conference: November 2-6, 2026, Houston, TX
- SXSW Innovation Conference: March 2027, Austin, TX

6. How do you propose to use the funds requested? Please include specific budget information.

Item	Description / Notes	Estimated Cost
<b><i>UCLA Extension -- AI Governance Training</i></b>		
Course Tuition	AI Governance or AI Ethics course (e.g., AI & Advanced Technologies in Public Affairs or equivalent offering)	\$1,000



<b><i>AfroTech Conference -- November 2-6, 2026   Houston, TX</i></b>		
Registration	Executive Tier admission -- AI, tech leadership, and innovation programming with focus on diverse tech communities	\$850
Airfare	Round-trip, Los Angeles to Houston	\$300
Hotel	4 nights, downtown Houston (~\$175/night)	\$700
Per Diem	Meals and ground transportation, 4 days at \$75/day	\$300
<b><i>EDUCAUSE Annual Conference -- September 29 - October 2, 2026   Denver, CO</i></b>		
Registration	Non-member rate -- premier higher education technology conference covering AI, cybersecurity, data analytics, and IT leadership	\$1,939
Airfare	Round-trip, Los Angeles to Denver	\$280
Hotel	3 nights, Colorado Convention Center area (~\$200/night)	\$600
Per Diem	Meals and ground transportation, 3 days at \$75/day	\$225
<b><i>SXSW Innovation Conference -- March 2027   Austin, TX</i></b>		
Registration	Innovation Badge -- AI, technology, and innovation programming directly relevant to higher ed and governance roles	\$1,295
Airfare	Round-trip, Los Angeles to Austin	\$350
Hotel	4 nights, downtown Austin (~\$200/night)	\$800
Per Diem	Meals and ground transportation, 4 days at \$75/day	\$300
<b>TOTAL REQUESTED</b>		<b>\$8,939</b>

7. Please list any other sources of funding you have applied for and include dollar amounts if already awarded. –None

8. How will the Foundation’s support be recognized?

I will acknowledge the Foundation's support in any presentations, reports, or documentation I produce from this professional development. I am also happy to write a short reflection piece for the Foundation on what I learned and how it is being applied at GCC. This investment in my development is important for the College, Information Technology Services, and for my role.

9. How do you plan to evaluate this project’s success?

I will know this was worth it if I can point to concrete things that changed at GCC as a result. Specifically, I am committing to:

- Leading/constructing an AI Governance group
- Recommendations of an AI Governance framework and Strategy document



- Incorporation of AI governance principles into our ERP software operations

If I can do these 3 things, this professional development results into institutional action.

10. If your project/program is successful, how will it inform your practice moving forward? AI governance is not a one-time learning effort. It is a continuous learning topic that is currently evolving at a rapid pace and as the technology changes. What I am hoping to gain from this experience is industry standard methodologies, and a set of frameworks I can apply at GCC.

11. Please provide a 2 – 3 sentence summary of your project proposal.

This grant supports professional development in AI governance for Ranell Holmes, Director of ERP & Enterprise Applications at Glendale Community College, through an AI governance course at UCLA Extension and attendance at three industry conferences: EDUCAUSE Annual Conference, AfroTech, and South by Southwest (SXSW). The goal is to build the institutional expertise GCC needs to develop responsible AI program as the college navigates AI adoption across teaching, operations, and enterprise systems. Insights and frameworks gained through this experience will be brought back to GCC through formal deliverables, directly advancing the college's 2025-2030 Strategic Plan objectives around AI literacy and equitable technology governance.

### **Section 3: Signatures and Acknowledgements**

I hereby acknowledge/certify:

My Dean or department head is aware of this application and has authorized its submission.  
-YES

If my proposal involves the hiring of temporary/contracted professionals, I will obtain approval from Human Resources before proceeding and will provide documentation to the Foundation that the hiring/contracting has been reviewed and approved.  
-N/A

If my proposal involves conference and/or other travel, I will complete the GCC travel approval process and adhere to GCC travel guidelines.  
-YES