



Marshall University Innovation Catalyst Program

Spring 2026 Application

Program Overview

The Innovation Catalyst Program begins with a semester-long training that prepares faculty and staff to become masters of design thinking and to champion it within their departments. Innovation Catalyst (IC) candidates receive hands-on training in Design for Delight (D4D) principles, equipping them to lead innovation efforts, support colleagues, and foster a community of creative problem-solving across campus.

Upon completing the training, candidates are launched as Innovation Catalysts (ICs) – serving as go-to resources for design thinking in their units. By helping colleagues apply D4D and fostering a culture of innovation, ICs lead their departments to become more collaborative, creative, and responsive to the needs of those they serve.

Program Expectations

- **Weekly Training Sessions:** IC candidates are required to attend weekly, in-person sessions every **Wednesday** from **9:00 a.m. to 12:00 p.m.** throughout the Spring 2026 semester.
 - **Active Participation:** Full engagement in training, activities, and assignments is expected.
 - **Post-Training:** After being launched, ICs will continue driving and supporting D4D implementation within their departments. ICs will also receive continuing education and opportunities to connect with each other.
 - **Institutional Support:** Applicants must receive support from their Supervisor and Dean/VP to ensure they have the time to participate fully.
-

Eligibility

Those who meet the following criteria are eligible to apply:

- Faculty or staff at Marshall University
 - Excited to apply and share D4D within their department, even when it's challenging
 - Prior participation in Design for Delight (D4D) training (*preferred but not required*)
-



Application Instructions

1. Complete the application below
2. Obtain signatures from your Supervisor and Dean/VP
3. Email your completed application to icenter@marshall.edu by **Friday, October 31, 2025**.



Innovation Catalyst Program Application

To apply for the Spring 2026 Innovation Catalyst program, please complete this application and email it to icenter@marshall.edu by **Friday, October 31, 2025**.

Name: _____ Department: _____

Email: _____ MUID: _____

Position: _____ T-Shirt Size: _____

Have you participated in a Design for Delight (D4D) training before? (i.e. Innovation Explorer, John Marshall Leadership Fellows, etc.)

☐ Yes

☐ No

If yes, please specify which training(s) you attended?

Why do you want to be an Innovation Catalyst?



How did you hear about the Innovation Catalyst Program?

Participants in the Innovation Catalyst program are required to attend weekly training sessions every **Wednesday** from **9:00 a.m. to 12:00 p.m.** during the semester. Are you able to attend these sessions each week during the Spring 2026 semester?

☐ Yes

☐ No



Consent to Participate

Applicant: If selected to the cohort, I agree to fully commit to and participate in the Innovation Catalyst program. I understand that if I miss more than 1 of the sessions, I will not be eligible to be launched as an Innovation Catalyst.

Signature

Date

Printed Name

Chair/Direct Supervisor: If this applicant is selected to the cohort, I agree to make it possible for them to fully commit to and participate in the Innovation Catalyst program (providing a course reassignment for a faculty member, or a release from duties without having to take leave for a staff member). I also agree to empower the launched Innovation Catalyst to lead D4D efforts within our department or unit.

Signature

Date

Printed Name

Dean/Vice President: If this applicant is selected to the cohort, I agree to provide the appropriate support so that he or she can fully commit to and participate in the Innovation Catalyst program.

Signature

Date

Printed Name