

A Community of Learners

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You Are Invited To Attend A Teaching And Learning Institute. The Center for Excellence in Teaching and Learning at KSU will facilitate a system-wide summer Teaching and Learning Institute (TLI) at Callaway Gardens from June 7-12, 1998. The Institute, which is funded by a University System of Georgia T&L grant, will advance cross-disciplinary discussion and create the foundation for a learning community. Through the formation of learning teams, curricular innovations and instructional approaches can be explored to strengthen student learning.

The foundation for the TLI is based on the concept of the learning community. Although the ideal learning community concept includes learners who are students, faculty and staff, the seeds for this learning centered paradigm must, it seems, begin with the corps of instruction. Numerous conferences are scheduled which address the positive functions of these communities and how they can be created. More specifically, many conferences address how and which changes need to be made in order to be more effective as teachers and learners. Unlike the outcome often seen in many of these professional meetings, TLI participants will not be passive learners leaving a conference thinking "Those were good ideas, I wish I could implement them." Learning team members will depart saying "I've received feedback about what I am doing, and input about how to be more innovative in my teaching. I know who to call to discuss my ideas." Participants will not simply exchange business cards, they will exchange ideas, techniques, and knowledge.

Presenters and participants at the TLI become one in the same. Learning teams made up of faculty throughout the system will be responsible for presenting information and facilitating discussion about selected topics. In a discussion of identifying the clients for faculty development and how they should be approached, Geis and Smith (1989) point out that we must use the experiences and knowledge of faculty members to lead to new areas of learning.

In early February, 1998, faculty developers at each USG institution will be asked to submit the names of two faculty members who are interested in attending the institute and "presenting" information about one of the designated topics. Let your faculty development office know if you are interested in attending the institute and representing your institution. One representative of each institution will be selected based on a need to develop comparably numbered learning teams to share information. The general topics for the institute are those that are being discussed and examined throughout the university system: experiential learning, distributive

learning (instructional technology), learning about (and through) diversity and globalization, and student-centered learning (such as the learning team concept). These topics reflect pedagogies, practices and philosophies that are new and different from those often subscribed to by faculty members.

Participants will be selected and notified of participation in the TLI in February. Learning teams will be established based on the topics selected by institute participants. Team members will be given a list of others on their team, along with necessary information to contact them. It will be the responsibility of each team to develop the daylong format for the presentation of the topic. During April 1998, participants/learning team members, will submit to CETL topical materials that will be distributed to all TLI participants in a workbook.

A six-day institute will be held at Callaway Gardens from June 7-12 (Sunday through Friday). The opening session will focus on the concept of the learning community. A guest speaker will conduct workshops the following day that address the research on learning. The program for the remainder of the week will be carried out by learning teams. A part of the discussion will revolve around how the learning team process works, how it can be enhanced, and how it can be incorporated into curricula. Formal sessions will conclude at 4:00 daily, allowing participants to interact and share ideas on an informal basis. During Fall semester, 1998, the information in the TLI workbooks will be placed on the CETL web page. Questions and answers recorded during the sessions will be included on this site (as FAQ's about these teaching and learning topics). With the participants' permission, their e-mail addresses will be made available to viewers who want to seek or exchange information. Faculty members throughout the system will have access to this information and institutions can link to the site from their teaching and learning centers. The exponential information effect made possible through technology can lead to a "virtual learning com-

munity" in the University system.

The cost of the Institute, including meals and lodging for all participants, is supported by a University System of Georgia Teaching and Learning Faculty Development Grant. Institutions or participants are asked to finance travel costs

to and from Callaway Gardens. Please contact Lana Wachniak, Director, Center for Excellence in Teaching and Learning at KSU for more information - (lwachnia@ksuemail.kennesaw.edu).

Georgia Conference on College and University Teaching

April 16 & 17, 1998 at Kennesaw State University
A State-Wide Conference

Students, classrooms and pedagogies have changed since we began our educational odysseys. Many aspects of higher education are rapidly changing, but the reason we entered this profession remains the same: we want to teach and we want our students to learn. The reality is that teachers must keep learning to keep students learning.

You are invited to join a diverse group of faculty and administrative colleagues who will share information about teaching strategies, diversity and new technologies at the fifth annual Georgia Conference on College and University Teaching.

The presentations will be "hands on" sessions about how to incorporate innovative, practical and productive teaching methods into your courses and program. Participants will be engaged in an interactive setting where there are shared resources and technologies.

Four themes provide the focus for the conference: "Alternatives to the Lecture," "Strategies for Teaching and Learning," "Technology: On-line Learning," Thinking Outside the Box: Using Technology," and "Teaching, Learning and Technology."

These are just some of the many presentations that will take place.

Getting "Developmental Studies Students" to Respond - Lavonne Teague, Atlanta Metropolitan College

Faculty Development - Charles Jackson, Holly Thornton, and Richard Cronk, Augusta State University

Process, Content, Simulation, and the Internet: New Methods of Teaching Introduction to International Politics - Thomas Mullen and John Hebestreet, Dalton College

Providing Guidance for Internet Use - Catherine Price, Valdosta State University

Sharing and Cyber-Space: Collaboration and Learning Using Computers - Robert Gingras and Darrell Fike, Bainbridge College

Out of the Classroom Learning: A Model for Developing or Enhancing Internship Programs - Bobbie Williams, Georgia Southern University

Bring Back the Dead - Deborah Elaine Bemby, Albany State University

Problem Based Learning for Your Curriculum - Preetha Ram and Brian Reed, Emory University

Rethinking Teaching About Teaching: A Rationale for Web-based Technology - Harry Dangle, Georgia State University

Think Outside the Box: Teaching and Learning via Compressed Video Conferencing - Chris Robbins and Ulf Kirchdorfer, Darton College

Poster Presentations

1. Doris Moody and Harold Reed, Georgia College - *The Mortality and Morbidity Report*
2. Beth McConnell, Valdosta State University - *Distance Learning and On-Line Courses*
3. Larry Wiley, Valdosta State University - *Using a Mock Organization to Teach Industrial/Organizational Psychology*
4. Ed Bostick, Kennesaw State University - *Transdisciplinary Connections*