

CTL Bulletin

No. 1 - September 15, 2004

A bi-weekly information sheet by the Center for Teaching and Learning

CTL Activities in Fall 2004

This begins a series of bulletins to keep faculty informed about professional development activities and initiatives the Center for Teaching and Learning is offering to the campus. Since its inception in the fall of 2001, many faculty have participated in activities the CTL has offered. But since the Center has grown and changed in the number and types of tasks it has taken on, we want to use the first bulletin for re-introducing who we are and what we do.

What is the CTL?

The Center for Teaching and Learning is a resource center for anybody teaching at Northeastern Illinois University. We are here to serve you with suggestions, feedback, print and online materials on a wide range of teaching needs. All our full-time staff members have been or are teaching college courses in a variety of disciplines and have special training in areas such as educational psychology, higher ed leadership and assessment, and instructional design. There are currently four areas in which we offer assistance:

- Pedagogy: Anything related to teaching strategies, innovative teaching approaches, course design, curriculum development,
- Assessment: Anything related to strategies for the assessment of student learning in individual courses, program majors and minors, general education, and various academic support services
- Technology: Anything related to the use of instructional technology for the enhancement of in-class teaching, out-of class learning, or alternative course delivery methods (Web, Blackboard, etc.)
- Cultivating Collegiality: Orientation and mentoring programs for new faculty, various activities for department chairs, showcasing teaching practices, and sharing research agendas

How can the CTL benefit me?

Since we are here to serve the faculty's teaching needs, your feedback on what we can do to help you is crucial. If you have a request or idea of a service we could provide that would improve our utility to faculty, please let us know. Besides responding to specific requests from you, we run a number of activities and programs of which we hope many of you will take advantage. After a hiatus of one year, our Title-V grant is back and ready to support a variety of workshops, course development projects, and guest speakers addressing issues of general education and strategies

for improving college success of minority students (see events calendar on back page). The grant permits us to provide stipends to faculty participating in some of these activities.

Which activities are planned for this semester?

Here is a sample of workshops and events that are planned, not all of them with specific dates yet:

- Title-V Workshop: “Teaching Critical Thinking, Part 1,” Oct. 15, 1 - 4pm
- Title-V Workshop: “Teaching Critical Thinking, Part 2,” Oct. 22, 1 - 4pm
- “Approaches to Teaching Non-Native English Speakers across the Curriculum” – A Conference by the Chicago Area Faculty Development Network (CAFDN) and NEIU, Nov. 5, Alumni Hall, 8am – 3pm
- Title-V Workshop: “Teaching for Multicultural Awareness,” Mid-November
- Title-V Workshop: “Integrating Writing across the Curriculum,” Late-Nov. or Jan.
- Academic Administrative Leaders Program
- Special workshops on instructional technology, TBA
- Survey to describe how faculty use the different features and functions of Blackboard, Sep.
- Possible workshop presenter on Scholarly Writing, Oct. 25 or 26 assuming sufficient interest
- Title-V Workshops: Small group projects with Gen-Ed instructors to redesign sections of Gen-Ed courses
- Development of a listing with self-descriptions of NEIU faculty research

How can I participate in these activities?

Some of our workshops require signing up, others are just walk-ins. Details and dates for specific events are advertised by flyers, e-mail, and on our website. The workshops are free, and in fact we provide some stipends for the more time-intensive Title-V workshops, if you pre-register so as to allow better planning on our part.

By the way, have you seen our website lately? You will find quite a few resources such as:

- Short Tips on College Teaching (31 of them!) – click on “Pedagogy Resources”
- A Manual for New and Part-Time Faculty – click on “Faculty Resources”
- A Guide to Faculty Resources – click on “Faculty Resources”
- Updates on program assessment in preparation for NEIU’s re-accreditation – click on “Assessment Homepage”
- Handouts on Blackboard topics (coming soon!) – click on “Technology Resources”

Who can I contact in the CTL?

For technology-related questions or requests, call:

- Paul Heydenburg (instructional tech. specialist) – ext. 4463
- Tony Piña (learning technologies coordinator) – ext. 4497
- Jane Peller (social work professor and faculty liaison for technology) – email: j-peller@neiu.edu

For questions/requests regarding assessment or department chairs training, call:

- Dr. Angeles Eames (associate director) – ext. 4465

For all other issues, including Title V, call:

- Dr. Edmund Hansen (director) – ext. 4468

For more resources, see our website at: