

CTL Bulletin

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

THANK YOU!

The Center for Teaching and Learning would like to thank all faculty, instructors, and staff with whom we have had the pleasure of working over the year that is now coming to a close. Our office is here to serve you educating our students, and we consider ourselves fortunate to have worked with so many of you over the past twelve months. The Center has been able to offer more workshops and activities than ever before, and we are looking forward to start planning for a new academic year. But before we move into the next year, we would like to take this opportunity to look back and recognize those whose dedication and hard work makes our campus an environment worth learning and working in. Thank you all!

Workshop Participants

In the past semester alone, we have had 151 registrations for the 20 workshops we offered, which ranged in length from 1.5 to 12 hours. We had a wide variety of topics, from course and curriculum development, to teaching non-native English speakers, instructional technology, and scholarly writing. If you haven't had a chance to participate, many of these workshops will be repeated in the fall, and new ones will be added.

Blackboard Instructors

We are pleased that the number of faculty who are taking advantage of the Blackboard system to enhance their courses is at an all time high. It is exciting to see that many more of faculty are going beyond using Blackboard simply to post resources online. They are now taking advantage of more sophisticated Blackboard applications--such as the use of online discussion and communications tools—to expand their students' learning experiences.

New-Faculty Mentors

The past year brought 15 new faculty members to our campus. Each one was paired with a mentor, typically a senior faculty member from a different department, who was available for one-on-one meetings to introduce the newcomers to campus policies and procedures and give advice on anything from teaching to committee work or establishing a research agenda. Thanks goes to: *Sandra Beyda (Special Ed)*, *Michael Fagen (HPERA)*, *Suzanne Gaskins (Psychology)*, *Chris Hearon (Phys. Ed)*, *Dragan Milovanovic (Justice Studies)*, *Paul O'Hara (Math)*, *Jane Peller (Social Work)*, *Esther Santana (For. Lang)*, *Chris Schroeder (English)*, *Sara Schwarzbaum (Counselor Ed)*, *Charles Shabica (Earth Science)*, *Bill Sieger (Art)*, *Susan Stall (Sociology)*, *Ed Stuart (Economics)*, and *Marcelo Sztainberg (Computer Science)*.

Library/CTL Advisory Committee

The CTL shares an advisory committee with the Library. The members have been invaluable in discussing the newest developments for our offices. We would like to thank *Jo Ann Karr (Teacher Ed)*, *Sara Lifson (Library Reference)*, *Constantine Loucopoulos (Management)*, *Bill Sieger (Art)*, and especially *Suzanne Benson (ELAD)* as the tireless chair, who has always set a cheerful and encouraging tone for the committee.

CTL Liaisons

In addition to our advisory board, we will further strengthen our direct links to the departments through faculty who serve as departmental liaisons for the CTL. Although this project is only in its initial stages and we have not yet finalized all the faculty willing to serve as liaisons, here are the faculty who have already agreed to work with us from

now on: *Sandra Beyda (Special Ed)*, *Steve Dundis (ELAD)*, *Michael Fagen (Phys. Ed)*, *Jim Lucas (Music)*, *Mary Ellen McGoey (For. Lang)*, *Cyndi Moran (Speech & Perf. Arts)*, *T.Y. Okosun (Justice Studies)*, *Roger Passman (Teacher Ed)*, *Jane Peller (Social Work)*, *Linda Rueckert (Psychology)*, *David Rutschman (Math)*, *Bill Sieger (Art)*, *Brett Stockdill (Sociology)*, *Peter Stonebraker (Management & Marketing)*, and *Rebekah Waikel (Biology)*.

Search Committees

We have three new CTL members who began their positions over the last nine months. A number of faculty and staff members helped us go through a large pool of candidates on different search committees. Given what the new colleagues have already been able to contribute to our office, we are especially grateful to the various committee members who helped us select them: *Sandra Beyda (Special Ed)*, *Susan Doyle (Inst. Studies)*, *Jim Hazeltine (Business)*, *Carlos Melian (Library)*, *Jane Peller (Social Work)*, *Audrey Reynolds (Linguistics)*, *Scott Simon (Acad. Comp.)*, and *Diane Stehman (Economics)*.

Gen-Ed Committee

The director and associate director of the CTL were invited to assist the committee with developing and implementing the assessment plan for the General Ed Program. Each committee member contributed ideas. They spoke with faculty to gauge faculty practices in Gen Ed assessment and garner faculty involvement in the process. However, several members deserve special recognition: *Bonnie Chauncey (Library)*, for accurate and timely minutes, sending reminders about our meetings and gently nudging members when needed; *Co-chairs Roger Reinsch (Account. & Fin.)* and *Tom Weaver (Chemistry)* for stimulating dialogue amongst group members, presenting the Gen Ed Assessment plan to the colleges and various faculty governance groups, and writing to colleagues; and *Amy Hietapelto (Management)* for her tireless, exemplary efforts to move the committee forward.

Gen-Ed Assessment

The implementation of the Gen Ed Assessment Plan requires the cooperation of many faculty and staff members. Many thanks to over 50 faculty members who allowed us to come into their classroom to administer the tests or who sent us papers for the embedded assessment process. They stayed in the classroom to help distribute or collect test materials or worked extra hours to collect student papers and asked thoughtful questions about the assessment process. Much gratitude for service goes to our volunteers who helped administer the Academic Profile Tests. Without them, we could not have completed Gen Ed Assessment! These trusty volunteers include *Shelley Bannister (President's Office)*, *Maritza Flores (Assess.)*, *Steve Gocha (Assess.)*, *Diane Gritton (CTL)*, *Kate Hahn (CTL)*, *Paul Heydenburg (CTL)*, *Juanita Morris (CTL)*, *Malti Rathore (Assess.)*, and *Tom Weaver (Chemistry)*.

Readers for Gen-Ed Assessment

At the conclusion of classes, another group of extraordinary faculty will help with Gen Ed Assessment. They include members of the Gen Ed Faculty Readers Panel who will read all of the student samples collected for this purpose. Many thanks to the Gen Ed Faculty Panel including *Lesa Davis (Anthrop.)*, *Teddy Boffman (Ling.)*, *T.Y. Okosun (Justice St's)*, *Daniel Milsky (Philosophy)*, *Suzanne Benson (ELAD)*, *Joel Olfelt (Biology)*, and *Hamid Akbari (Management)*. Thank you all for your commitment to improving NEIU!

Outcomes Assessment Task Force

The task force continued to assist programs in reviewing assessment plans and sponsored the 2nd Annual Assessment Fair in collaboration with the *Student Affairs Assessment Committee*. Thanks to members of both of these groups for their work to increase awareness about assessment, especially to the leaders of each group, *Co-Chairs Larry Berlin (Engl. Lang.)* and *Selina Mushi (Teacher Ed)* for OATF and *Chair Kris Pierre (Stud. Aff.)* for SAAC.

Language Skills Assessment Task Force

This task force was assisted by the associate director of the CTL. Members met frequently and spent many hours to review testing, curriculum, and student outcomes related to students' writing skills. Their deep interest in developing a comprehensive proposal to strengthen student writing is commendable. A special thank you goes to members who helped to conduct research and develop the proposal. They include *Larry Berlin (Engl. Lang.)*, *Gary Brodsky (Engl.)*, *Harry Hild (Communi.)*, *Sandra Hunt (Engl. Lang.)*, *Masahiro Kasai (Assess.)*, *Christine Larsen (Writ. Ctr.)*, *Audrey Reynolds (Ling.)*, and *Christopher Schroeder (Engl.)*.