The Center for Faculty Excellence and the Provost's Office

Call for participants in a faculty learning community

Applying Psychological Science to Teaching and Learning to Improve Student Success

Applications Due January 16th, 11:59 pm

Dear Faculty Member: As you know, CSU held recently its first meeting of faculty who teach Gateway courses. The goal of the meeting was to recognize the good work being done in these courses and to encourage faculty and administrators to consider ways of building on that work to further improve student outcomes. One of the follow-up steps promised at the meeting was the creation of a faculty learning community in which faculty who teach gateway courses in various departments across the University could meet and discuss the challenges they face in those courses and share ideas about how they might be strengthened.

I'm pleased to invite you join the faculty learning community we've established for gateway course instructors. The community will meet this fall, let by Joanne Goodell from the Center for Faculty Excellence and Conor McLennan from the Department of Psychology. The following materials describe the community in more detail and explain how you can apply to join.

I hope that you will consider participating in this community, which provides an opportunity for faculty to interact with faculty from a wide range of departments and disciplinary backgrounds. I also hope you will encourage your colleagues who teach gateway courses to consider joining as well. The broader the group of faculty involved, the greater the chance that the community will develop good ideas about how best to ensure that students successfully achieve the learning outcomes in gateway courses.

Peter Meiksins
Vice Provost for Academic Programs

Program Details and Application Procedures

This faculty learning community will examine how to apply current psychological science to their teaching to improve student success. All sessions will be 90 minutes and begin at 2:00 pm. Below is a list of topics and dates.

Session 1: 1/28/19
Cognitive psychology of teaching and learning: an overview

Session 2: 2/11/19
Application and examples from the content areas

Session 3: 3/04/19
Small Teaching: predicting, growing

Session 4: 4/01/19
Fostering metacognitive strategies to improve study skills: making exams worth more than the grade.

Session 5: 4/29/19
Wrap up and planning to share our findings

Benefits

Participants in this learning community will
- Meet and share teaching experiences with colleagues from across the university.
- Receive $500 in the form of professional development funds upon successful completion of the learning community activities.

Application procedure

Click on this link to apply for this opportunity. The deadline for applications is January 16th.

Be prepared to provide the following information in your application.

1. *Course Description*. For the gateway* course(s) you teach, include the title along with the catalogue description and the number of students enrolled in the course each semester over the period Fall 17 – Summer 18. Briefly explain why students enroll in this course (e.g. is it a major requirement, general education course, etc.). Outline the major goals and intended outcomes of the course.

2. *Rationale.* Discuss why you want to participate, what you hope to gain as a teacher, and what aspect of your class you hope to improve as a result of your participation.

The selection committee will make the final selection and notify participants by January 22nd.

*Note: If your course does not meet the definition of a gateway course, but you have evidence to suggest that is an impediment to retention or graduation in your program, you can still apply. Please provide an explanation of this in your rationale for applying.