

## **Call for Participants**

### **Faculty Learning Community on General Education**

The CSULA Center for Effective Teaching and Learning (CETL) was just awarded a 2012 CSU system grant from the Institute of Teaching and Learning to establish a Faculty Learning Community (FLC).

This FLC will investigate innovative teaching methods for large, General Education (GE) classes as these engage both students and faculty in the learning process. GE courses have been negatively described in the literature: by class sizes too large to effectively provide higher-order learning experiences, by poor student participation and attendance, and as time-intensive. In addition, GE courses have less well-developed pedagogy grounding them. What is best teaching in a big class environment? Can a large lecture course turn into a great class? Are there high impact practices for large lecture courses specifically in the GE curriculum? This FLC provides an opportunity for interested faculty to reflect on and revise approaches to teaching in large-lecture GE classrooms.

#### **Criteria**

*Eligible applicants will be limited to eight (8) faculty who teach or have taught General Education classes of 35 or more students.* Qualified applicants will be open to new discovery in their own teaching and learning and willing to experiment and share new approaches to effective practices with other motivated colleagues.

Stipends of \$500 will be awarded to each FLC member and will be paid out at the closing retreat where deliverables will be presented to the community. FLC facilitators will provide all reading and curricular materials.

#### **Application Guidelines**

- A short information session will be held Tuesday, January 24 and Wednesday, January 25 at 3:15 pm in the CETL Annex (Library PW 3074).
- Email applications are due by Noon, Wednesday, February 1, 2012.
- Application process: Interested faculty should send a brief email to CETL Director Catherine Haras at [CETL@calstatela.edu](mailto:CETL@calstatela.edu), indicating the following:
  1. Name, rank, and department;
  2. Name(s) of any GE class(es) taught in the past 3 years and average number of students per class;
  3. Specific reason(s) for applying, including specific areas of concern;
  4. Willingness to commit to the FLC calendar and one project deliverable (See below).
- FLC members will be notified by Friday, February 10.
- The CETL will hold an opening retreat on Friday, February 17. The closing retreat will be in December, 2012.
- Faculty applying must commit to ten (10) monthly meetings, excluding summer.

#### **The FLC model**

FLCs are made up of cross-disciplinary faculty who commit to a collaborative yearlong program. Faculty Learning Communities are about building community, and are not committee work. FLC members have a topic-specific curriculum and participate in facilitated scholarly activities (seminars, discussions) that provide enhanced teaching and

learning experiences within the area of concern. The FLC provides a support structure and represents a sustained professional development opportunity.

FLC faculty have one deliverable: they create a well-defined goal culminating in a final project, completed within one year. Final projects may include revised syllabi or new assignments. They are related to teaching and learning, publishable, reflective of qualitative and quantitative inquiry, and anchored in existing research on scholarship of teaching and learning (SoTL).

### **Purpose of the GE FLC**

This FLC will engage faculty in new high-impact practices that should improve student learning in their respective large General Education courses. The community of practice will employ the Inverted Classroom Model, and encourages faculty members to revise their approach to their large courses. The inverted classroom is one teaching method that moves some traditional classroom activities outside of class so that face-to-face time focuses on student-centered activities, including peer-to-peer interaction and feedback. Faculty who struggle with the challenges of teaching large lecture GE and want to investigate new ways of teaching in a supportive environment are encouraged to apply.

**For further information please contact** Catherine Haras at [CETL@calstatela.edu](mailto:CETL@calstatela.edu)