

TEACHING AND LEARNING CENTER NEWSLETTER

Our Goals are to:

- Support advanced effective teaching
- Improve student proficiency levels in basic knowledge and skills needed for success in the 21st century, such as oral and written communication mathematics, and computer skills.
- Create a "culture of planning" to guide decisions about possible changes in academic programs and services.
- Sustain academic and student services supporting technical, career-oriented, and professional programs.
- Promote the value of higher education to the community.



Faculty Focus & Coffee Chats

Continuing the TLC tradition, *Faculty Focus*' best practice articles covering topics about teaching and learning were sent out via email in pdf form every Thursday with the "free coffee" invitation via e-mail. Copies of the articles were also made available in the Teaching and Learning Center office near the coffee bar. Approximately 30 copies of the same articles were also placed near faculty mailboxes for faculty. These articles included tips to build student engagement, strengthen student retention of information, and aid student success in academic classes. Many Thursdays the coffee bar in the TLC was utilized by faculty, staff, and other SSU personnel who met, visited, shared ideas, and talked about various topics of interest to us all.

TLC Promotes Webinar:

Using Rubrics to Promote Consistency, Clarity, and Fairness

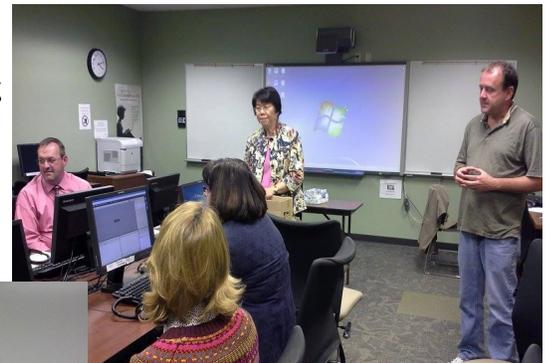
Wednesday, September 10, 2014

One important and difficult skill of teaching is making sure as faculty we are properly and fairly measuring the outcomes we hope to achieve. In this free webinar, the presenter Dr. Debra C. Cobia, University of West Georgia discussed the benefits for students and program leaders of adopting and using a consistent scoring rubric. The ways in which rubric scores are used to monitor progress of individual students, identify program strengths and weaknesses, and provide meaningful data for accreditors are important topics for educators. The webinar was provided to all faculty members who wished to view it privately on their own time, and two faculty viewers offered feedback, indicating they learned how important it was for them to consider the validity and fairness of creating a detailed rubric that guides students to see specific expectations for student projects. Responders also said they also learned to consider the necessity of using a four scale rubric designed to force themselves as both formative and summative evaluators to make a decision and stay out of the non-committal middle (avoiding a 3 on a scale of 5, for example), which, as the presenter noted, can become a "no-call" area for feedback. Thus, they revised existing rubrics from 5 and 3 point ones to new 4 point rubrics that detailed what each level looked like.

SSU-TLC Hosts Adobe Connect Faculty Session

Monday, October 13, 2014

Faculty members requested a way to see and talk with students in small groups to add to their online teaching skills. Learning to use Adobe Connect was the answer and a good start for those who want to instruct an online or hybrid class. An interactive demonstration was provided for seventeen faculty members on using Adobe Connect by DanDan (Xiaodan Huang) and Doug Sturgeon, Seventeen faculty members participated.



Dan Dan and Doug help faculty members learn how to navigate Adobe Connect, a web tool that allows us to communicate with multiple students via web cam and Powerpoint (or other documents) as we conduct online instruction.

Faculty, Staff & Student Coffee and Conversation

Thursday, October 30, 2014

The SSU Faculty and Student Coffee and Conversation was held inside Jazzman's as a quick break from classes and the daily business of running a university. This campus-wide event brought together faculty, students, and staff for a quick hour break to build community and develop friendships. *Coffee and Conversation* offered a relaxed atmosphere with snacks and beverages to sustain everyone until lunch. Approximately 40 students joined 20 university personnel (faculty, administrators and staff members) to briefly hold conversations about classes, graduation, and careers, activities, current events, and life in general.



New Faculty "Onboarding" Tuesday, November 4, 2014

Eight new faculty members (a few of whom have been here at least one year, but still can relate to being "new"!) gathered at the Portsmouth Brewery Arcade to share pizza, insights and challenges about what it is like to be new at SSU and meet one another. Topics ranged from research interests, best places to eat and rent a place, shop, find babysitters, and even special events on campus not to miss. As part of the welcome from the TLC, attendees were given a notebook of local resources and favorite TLC articles about teaching and Harvard scholar, Ken Bain's well-known book [What the Best College Teachers Do](#). New faculty included Alan Gravano, Pablo Salinas, Jennifer Scott, Daniel O'Connor, Mark Romesser Mitra Devkota, Erik Larson, Brenda Hale, Rose Roach, Van Lemmon, Jacqueline Camley, Amy Grau, and Ryan Gamm.

Inquiry Approaches to Senior Seminar

Tuesday, November 18, 2014

Marc Scott, PhD, English and Humanities and Jen Scott, PhD, Director, SSU Writing Center, held an informative TLC presentation about using the inquiry approach to teaching Senior Seminar for ten faculty members teaching the course Fall 2014. The two discussed approaching the class with a new method as an alternative to the traditional approach, beginning with research, journal writing, and multiple inquiry sessions. After the presentation, they also facilitated a roundtable discussion. The approach was well-received and faculty expressed interest in implementing the new strategy. The TLC has purchased books on inquiry approaches to support the idea.

Lilly Conference

November 21-25, 2014

The Teaching and Learning Center sent three faculty members, Ryan Gamm, Theresa Jackson, and April Barnett, to Miami University in Oxford, Ohio for the 34th annual Lilly Conference on College Teaching. During the conference teachers from across the world shared innovative pedagogies and discussed questions, challenges, and insights about teaching and learning. The three returned to SSU eager to share ideas from the conference and recommending attendance to others.

Fall 2014 Hours

ADM 032

Monday

10 am-4pm

Tuesday

8 am-4 pm

Wednesday

10 am-4pm

Thursday

8 am-noon

****Faculty and Staff Coffee Day****

9 am-noon in the TLC

Friday