

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 and

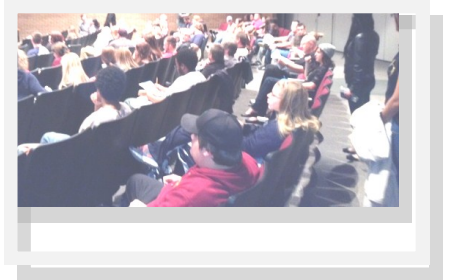


Inequality For All Screening and Live Webinar Discussion

Thursday February, 2014

Members of the local community along with the Clark Memorial Library and the SSU TLC partnered with college campuses across the nation for a national viewing of the Sundance award-winning documentary *Inequality for All*, an "exposé on the nation's widening economic gap" with Robert Reich, former US Secretary of Labor. The event was well-attended by a diverse audience.

During the viewing, SSU audience members participated on Twitter with comments. The viewing was followed by a live webcast from San Francisco State University with Robert Reich. Facilitating the viewing and webcast discussion were SSU Professors Xiaodan Huang, PhD and Clifford Poirot, Ph.D.



Senior Seminar Retreat

April, 2014

A one day retreat at Shawnee State Lodge for faculty and administrators to consider the future of senior seminar. Dr. John Lorentz, one of the original designers of Senior Seminar at SSU, felt deep concern for the future of this course. As a result, Dr. Lorentz, working with GEP Director Phil Blau, received a grant titled "Bringing Theory to Practice" to allow faculty and administrators to gather, away from campus demands, for a discussion about the past goals, current state, and possible future vision for the course. The group viewed data and aired concerns. They also read and discussed alternative approaches to capstone experiences by examining what four other institutions do. Of course, all agreed, that before any changes can be made, if there are to be changes, it is important that time be devoted to such a serious conversation and all important stakeholders take part. While no decisions were made, the eighteen who attended began that conversation.



Tony Ward Receives SSU Board of Trustees' Distinguished Faculty Teaching Award 2014

Shawnee State University is a teaching institution. To acknowledge outstanding teaching, the university has established an annual award which includes a prize of \$500. Full-time faculty and full-time students nominated esteemed tenure track faculty members and full-time instructors who had completed at least one year of service at the time of the nomination at SSU. **Those nominated included: Sandra Cox, Roberta Milliken, Tony Ward, Marc Scott, Catherine Bailey, Heather Waugh, Patricia Spradlin, Neil Carpathios, Sarah Minter, and Patsy Todd.** Those accepting the nomination submitted portfolios that included evidence of extraordinary dedication to teaching, demonstrated by excellence in the following areas: Impact on and involvement with students; scholarly approach to teaching and learning; contribution to undergraduate education in the institution, community and profession. They also submitted letters of support from colleagues, current and former students. The Faculty Scholarly Affairs Committee reviewed and scored the portfolios and selected Professor Ward as the 2014 recipient.





TLC Sponsors Faculty Break Out Session During 2014 Celebration of Scholarship:
Critical Thinking and Assessment in a General Education Class
 Dr. Jeff Kuznekoff, Miami University

During a TLC Session, Dr. Jeff Kuznekoff of Miami University, Ohio, focused on the importance of critical thinking in general education in the context of public speaking courses and ways of assessing critical thinking. Approximately ten faculty and administrators attended his faculty session during the 2014 Celebration of Scholarship. This session allowed him to share scholarship of teaching and learning with faculty regarding the assessment of critical thinking in a GEP course, specifically embedded within an introductory speech course. One interesting point Dr. Kuznekoff made concerns the reliability of self-assessment tools, noting that it is problematic to ask students to assess how proficient they are at a task or skill or how well a peer's or their own product meets standards for effective critical thinking, speaking, writing, etc. when students may not actually know what characteristics of excellence to look for. Therefore, objective faculty-scored rubrics, as opposed to self-assessment tools, measuring critical thinking within the course became a critical component of the study. Faculty and administrators in attendance examined Dr. Kuznekoff's explanation of how his institution measured critical thinking growth among students in the speech courses.



Jeff Kuznekoff, PhD, Dept. of Integrative Studies, College of Professional Studies and Applied Sciences, Miami University Middletown, OH



CYNTHIA CLARK RN, PhD, ANEF, FAAN

Presents: "The Power of Civility to Foster Healthy Workplaces"

Dr. Cynthia Clark, an award-winning professor in the School of Nursing at Boise State University and the Founder of *Civility Matters*[®] brought her nationally recognized work on the controversial issues of incivility in academic and work environments to SSU March 26, 2014 in cooperation with the TLC, the Celebration of Scholarship organizing committee and Dr. Barbara Conn who facilitated her presentation as a Distinguished Lecturer. Faculty and students in attendance learned from her theory-driven interventions, empirical measurements, theoretical models, and reflective assessments about "best practices" to prevent, measure, and address uncivil behavior and to create healthy workplaces.

Dr. Clark serves as a fellow in the American Academy of Nursing and the National League for Nursing Academy of Nursing Education. She is the recipient of numerous teaching, research, and service awards including the 2011 and 2012 Most Inspirational Professor Award, the 2011 NLN Excellence in Educational Research Award, the 2013 *Journal of Nursing Education (JNE)*. Dr. Barbara Conn, in conjunction with Dr. Shannon Lawson, Director For more information, visit her *Civility Matters*[®] website at <http://hs.boisestate.edu/civilitymatters/index.htm> or read her *Musing of the great blue blog* sponsored by STTI at <http://musingofthegreatblue.blogspot.com/>



Dr. Cynthia Clark, PhD, Boise State University



TLC Presents “Student Response Systems” Workshop

January, 2014

Approximately twenty SSU faculty members across the campus attended a brown bag luncheon to investigate the basic use of clickers. They watched a brief video with students who talked about their reactions—positive and negative—to the use of these devices in their classes.

Student response applications (clickers) available free online to students via cell phones and computers, including Socrative and Poll Everywhere were demonstrated and explored.

Socrative is a free application for smartphones that allows faculty to collect student responses, create exit quizzes or offer an extended answer instantly. Practical ways to use these tools excited many who brainstormed how to add this simple tool to their classroom sessions.



Fall 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
CLOSED

Quality Matters: Professor Theresa Jackson Attends Akron Training in Online Learning

Quality Matters offers a professional development program that looks to improve student learning, engagement, and satisfaction in online courses. This training was offered in a face to face environment at Akron University for two full days of intensive learning. QM, along with Professor Jackson, hopes to achieve the goals of promoting better online course design and reviewing of courses by teaching how to evaluate existing online courses, and

providing effective training for faculty making the transition to online courses. The cost of this program was sponsored by SSU’s Distance Learning Program and the TLC.

Theresa completed her two days at Akron and has returned to Shawnee to share her experiences with others.



Welcome! I am delighted to be returning to SSU during the academic year 2014-15 as the Director of the TLC. I am also very happy that our student worker, Erica Archer is also going to return. Please stop in and see us about any ideas or problems you have concerning classroom instruction.

Credit: Thanks to Ariya Arnold and Erica Archer for their help with this publication.

“Getting In-Sync” Curriculum Alignment Seminar for Area English Language Arts Teachers and SSU Faculty

Many are aware of a “disconnect” between what is taught in middle and high school English classroom and what is taught in the freshman composition series at the college level. Twenty-nine area English teachers from grades 6-12 joined Dean Haas and SSU English and Humanities faculty for a day’s discussion about problems with curriculum alignment in English. The group examined what the composition courses at SSU ask students to know and be able to do and, through active discussions and small group work, identified gaps, both necessary and unnecessary ones. After all, the different levels, while sharing the common goal of “college readiness,” do not share common goals of OAA test demands or appropriate child development needs. These gaps were acknowledged and serious communication began about how to close them. Marc Scott with SSU student tutors and other faculty members (Pat Spradlin, Glenna Heckler-Todt, Cynthia Hermanson) shared peer review techniques that offered research-based insight into creating a more revision-centered writing experience and developing critical thinking skills for students. OhioWins grant funds and the TLC along with SSU University college support made this exciting day possible.