

Call for Participation in a Faculty Learning Community on Transforming Teaching: Spring-Fall 2015



What: A Faculty Learning Community on transforming teaching practice - with a focus on enhancing a course through the adoption of research-based teaching methods. For examples of evidence-based teaching methods, see the [call for proposals](#) for the 2015 CFE 100+ Large Course Redesign Grants program.

Faculty Learning Communities (FLC) provide strong support for exploration of an important topic by a committed group of faculty. In addition to providing a collegial environment for professional growth, they can also lead to significant products such as papers, plans, or reports as a consequence of the program of study. For more information on Faculty Learning Communities, visit <http://www.units.muohio.edu/flc/whatis.php>.

Comments from faculty members who have participated in previous CFE FLCs on teaching:

“I always felt teaching was a fairly isolated activity, and this completely changed that mindset. Just having a network of teachers across the University and across disciplines made me start viewing myself as a member of a much larger community.”

Instructor, Economics Department

“There has not been a single meeting that I did not take something out of. Sometimes it was a technique, sometimes a whole new approach. I always felt that I can challenge my teaching and improve it.”

Instructor, Biology Department

With Whom: Ten to twelve like-minded individuals who are interested in actively improving one or more courses that they teach. The FLC will be co-facilitated by Viji Sathy, Senior Lecturer in Psychology, and Bob Henshaw, ITS Liaison to the Center for Faculty Excellence. The group will be strictly limited to a maximum of 12 participants.

Who Can Join: To join this faculty learning community you must:

- Have a faculty appointment at UNC (either tenure-track or fixed term) and be scheduled to teach a course section (minimum three credit hours) during the Spring 2015 or Fall 2015 semesters.
- Submit a short statement describing your interests in the program **by Friday, January 30, 2015**. See the section “How to apply” below.
- Commit to a meeting once per month during the Spring 2015 and Fall 2015 semesters to discuss, think, and learn together. All participants’ calendars will be consulted in the scheduling of these sessions.
Note: If you have doubts about your availability to attend meetings regularly, you may want to consider a future FLC opportunity.
- Be willing to actively listen to and share with your colleagues in the group.

How You Will Benefit: By participating, you will benefit from the collegiality of like-minded faculty who share challenges and commitment and from the support of your co-facilitators and other individuals on campus who have experience teaching and supporting large classes. Depending on your interests, your participation in the program may lead to the creation of scholarly work (e.g., concerning pedagogy in your discipline) that you can submit for publication in an academic journal or for presentation at a conference.

Examples of group activities include:

- Sharing personal ideas and experiences, gathering and assessing information, looking at trends and opportunities, identifying challenges, and crafting strategies and innovative methods for teaching large enrollment classes at UNC.
- Interacting with guest speakers who have specific experience in some aspect of teaching large enrollment courses.
- Visiting each other's classrooms to learn and provide constructive feedback.
- Sharing and discussing resources (e.g. articles or video clips) that members of the group think are particularly relevant or helpful.

Time Frame: During the Spring 2015 semester, the group will meet and form its agenda, identify individual instructional improvement goals, and get input from a variety of resource representatives. Some individuals will pilot test instructional strategies during the Spring 2015 semester. During the summer months participants will be encouraged to meet informally, work on their projects, and stay in contact electronically. In fall 2015, the group will work to complete projects and share their findings.

How To Apply: Please write a brief (i.e., maximum one page), double-spaced, 12pt font *statement of your interests* in this program and send it by email no later than **by Friday, January 30, 2015** to Bob Henshaw at bhenshaw@email.unc.edu. This statement should include 1) a description of the course that you are interested in improving, 2) what changes you are considering making to the course and why, and 3) any specific areas in which you have worked to increase student engagement in courses that you have taught previously.

Statements will be reviewed by a committee of faculty members and staff members representing a variety of academic units. Applicants will be notified in early February.

Questions?

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