

Kwantlen University College Institutional Leadership Program Report, March, 2008

Carnegie Academy for the Scholarship of Teaching and Learning

Theme: Building SoTL Communities

Location of 2008 Meeting: Ryerson University, May 13 - 14, 2008

Ongoing Connections with our Cluster

No members of our institutional team were able to attend the Ohio meeting in 2007 due to other commitments at that time. We will be sending two people to Ryerson this year. It is still a difficult time of year for us. We recognize that it does work for others. Currently we feel a bit distanced because of a lack of connection and hope to overcome this with our next meeting.

Building the Scholarship of Teaching and Learning Communities through Faculty Development

Excellence in teaching promotes excellence in student learning. Our community has come together to promote our awareness and understandings of the scholarship of Teaching and Learning. We are working collaborative with others in our CASTL Leadership cluster to share and promote our experiences and products to create new understandings and to document our process.

Some of our current projects, benchmarks, and successes to date are listed below.

Dissemination of SoTL through an Electronic Journal

Transformative Dialogue: Teaching and Learning Journal - 3rd Issue: March 2008: Changes in our Life and Life in our Changes

We have a solid core of an editorial review board and three issues under our belt. A Call for Papers has been put out. We are actively encouraging faculty at Kwantlen to submit reflective pieces on their understanding of the Scholarship of Teaching and Learning for the first edition. We are also open to submissions from outside Kwantlen. This first Call for Papers can be found at:

<http://www.kwantlen.ca/academicgrowth/TD/Call4Papers.htm>

Examples of other Kwantlen Projects designed to Build Community

Faculty Learning Communities and Peer Mentoring Alliances

In the third year of this program, we have adapted the content to connects faculty members further and to offer a certificate for completion of a 70 hour series of interconnected workshops. The ability to provide a certificate in recognition of commitment to examining and reflecting on personal teaching practices in the light of current research around effective and engaging teaching has shone a brighter light on the importance of reflection and scholarly activities in the field of teaching and learning.

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We have also created an online Moodle space for the sharing of resources, questions and experiences and will be building further on this initiative in the next year.

Electronic Teaching and Learning Portfolios

Kwantlen's Teaching Portfolio Project in 2007 engaged a number of faculty in the reflective process of writing about their experiences and questions around teaching and learning in ways that can be shared. This is another initiative that we hope to expand this year.

Instructional Skills Workshops

The Instructional Skills workshop (ISW) remains that foundation for our scholarly reflection work and is the basis for the Faculty Certificate Program. It is for anyone who is interested in developing or improving upon their teaching and learning processes. It is an intensive four-day workshop and each workshop can accommodate a maximum of six participants. Participants review ideas about teaching, check current practices and reflect on their own practice. Within a safe and supportive environment they deliver three 10 minute lessons and receive feedback from colleagues who participate in these lessons. These workshops are offered to both new and long term faculty and are facilitated by faculty members.

Using Change Theory to Change the Change Theory Course

In this ongoing project students apply the theory they are learning to survey past and present course participants and suggest theory based ways to implement positive changes to the course to improve engagement and learning. This process has gone through two iterations and students traveled to Sidney, Australia in July, 2007 to present their work at the ISSoTL Conference.

Reading Circles

These events provide opportunities for faculty to read and discuss books and articles related to teaching, learning, and research. The following books have been used in the past couple of years for faculty and other employees.

- What the Best College Teachers Do (Bain)
- Thinking about Teaching and Learning: Developing Habits of Learning with First-Year College and University Students (Leamson)
- Enhancing Adult Motivation to Learn (Wlodkowski)
- Teaching with your Mouth shut (Finkel)
- Handbook for Teachers of Adults (Greive)
- The Skillful Teacher: On Technique, Trust, and Responsiveness in the Classroom (Brookfield)
- Scholarship Reconsidered: Priorities of the Professoriate (Boyer)
- Scholarship Assessed: An Evaluation of the Professoriate (Glassick, Taylor Huber, Maeroff)

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- Cooperative Learning in Classroom - The New Circles of Learning (Johnson, Johnson, Holubec)
- The Courage to Teach (Palmer)
- Educating Citizens (The Carnegie Foundation for the Advancement of Teaching)

Other Institutional Events

The Centre for Academic Growth at Kwantlen held two Symposia on the Scholarship of Teaching and Learning in 2007:

- What is this Scholarship of Teaching and Learning? Conversation with Richard Gale, Symposium - March 15, 2007.
<http://www.kwantlen.ca/academicgrowth/resources/GALE%20-%20Kwantlen%20Handout%2003-07.pdf>
- Forging Our Own Path Symposium - on August 23, 2007. The schedule and selected presentations of this reviewed event are now archived as the second issue of Transformative Dialogues at: <http://kwantlen.ca/academicgrowth/TD/TD.1.2/>

Kwantlen's Office of Research and Scholarship holds a yearly event in which CASTL members participate with others to showcase student and faculty research and its integration with student learning.

http://www.kwantlen.ca/research/documents/Program_002.pdf

A variety of events and ongoing workshops take place over the year that also build our SoTL community through education, reflection and the chance to share. These are updated and listed on our calendar at:

<http://www.kwantlen.ca/academicgrowth/Calendar.html>

Provincial Events

Kwantlen has presented our CASTL initiative to the province wide group of the Universities, Colleges, and Institutes Professional Development (UCIPD) committee.

Members of our CASTL Team have participated as invited panel members in a Provincial Conference sponsored by the Federation of Post Secondary Educators (FPSE), March 29, 2008. <http://www.fpse.ca/>

National Events

Kwantlen presented our CASTL initiative as part of a pre conference session for the Educational Developer's Caucus (EDC) of the Society for Teaching and Learning in Higher Education (STLHE) Conference - Spanning the Career of an Educational Developer - February 21 - 13, 2008, Co-hosted by Simon Fraser University and Kwantlen University College. <http://www.sfu.ca/kwantlen-edconf2008/>

Website:

Kwantlen's CASTL website can be found at:

<http://www.kwantlen.ca/academicgrowth/CASTL>.

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Information about all of the activities mentioned above (and more) is also available at this location.

The Kwantlen CASTL Building Scholarly Communities Leadership Team

We are a group of cross and inter disciplinary faculty members who are working to help develop and publicize scholarly communities about teaching and learning at Kwantlen.

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