What’s in a Name? Name/Title Changes Mark Unit Reorganization

The Professional Development Center officially kicks off its new organizational structure this spring semester with changes that unify all the staff working in the former Teaching and Learning Center. All staff is now part of the Division of Libraries and Instructional Services.

Sonia Crosier, Director of Workplace Learning and Performance, focuses on coordinating training for CLC staff, as well as coordinating mandated non-teaching related training for all College employees.

Scott Rial, now Director of Active Learning Technologies, will assume a leadership role in exploring leading-edge technologies and working with faculty to pilot use of these new technologies in their courses and in classrooms. He and Page Wolf are also leading the quality online course initiative at CLC.

Russ Pearson, now Coordinator of Course Management Systems and Training, will be the first stop for anyone using or wanting to use our course management system (BlackBoard) and planning training in the use of the system. Russ will work closely with ITS staff to implement system upgrades and develop faculty staff training.

Faculty member Page Wolf is now Coordinator of Faculty Development, and will lead the PDC outreach to part-time faculty, providing faculty development opportunities specific to their needs. She will also be responsible for planning all non-technology PDC sessions, and specialized sessions for divisions.

For Further information on these sessions and other sessions, please visit our website at http://pd.clcillinois.edu

• Fraud Prevention, Detection, & Reporting - Online training in development
• Getting Results: Effective Classroom Practices for Community College Educators
• What is Web 2.0?
• Organizing Your Inbox
• Adjunct Time-Management/Work-Life Balance
• Using Firefox to browse the Web

FEATURED FACULTY

The PDC is trying a new approach to recognize excellent teaching at the College of Lake County and to share instructional techniques with the college community to enhance teaching and learning. Keep on the lookout for “Featured Faculty” topics each month. Prizes will be given!

Tech Tip:

A great place to find free software and online services is the PDC website. We try to list a number of programs and services that may be of interest to faculty or anyone working online. If you have other suggestions that could go on this list please send them to Russ Pearson or Scott Rial. Just look under the Teaching Online button and choose Software Download Links.
SOAR Award

Spring nominations deadline is February 28. Celebration is April 5, 2-3pm in the Atrium.

Staff Exchange

The Northern Illinois Network (NIN) of Staff Developers sponsors a semi-annual event for support staff. These events provide an opportunity for staff employees to network with other community college colleagues. The Exchange brings together a selected group of staff employees to share ideas and generate problem-solving solutions related to their respective positions. Harper Community College will host the spring 2007 event. Date and selected positions have not yet been determined. Watch for announcements and further details during the spring semester from the Professional Development Center.

TEACHING TIP—Critical Connections for the First Day of Class
(excerpted from “The Teaching Professor” Vol. 20, No. 5, May 2006)

Do you tend to spend the first day of class simply reviewing your syllabus? Why not explore a more engaging approach of “making connections” rather than “giving directions”?

1) Connect students to instructor—use an icebreaker activity; collect demographic/personal information
2) Connect instructor to content—demonstrate your enthusiasm for your content; discuss research, professional background, conferences.
3) Connect content to students—help students understand how they can use the content; have them brainstorm potential benefits that may come from study in the discipline

By focusing on making connections rather than giving directions, students tend to be more positive toward both the subject matter and the class in general. For this, and other excellent tips on teaching, hard copies of “The Teaching Professor” can be found in the Professional Development Center.

Win an iPod Nano

The PDC is celebrating its reorganization with a semester-long contest. Every time you attend a session, teach a session or work with staff in the PDC, you’ll enter our drawing. Grand prize, to be awarded in May 2007, will be an iPod Nano. Help us kick off a new era of professional development at CLC and earn the chance to win an iPod Nano or other prizes.

PDC Office Hours

Monday through Thursday  8:00AM—7:00PM
Fridays 8:00AM—4:30PM

Website: http://pd.clcillinois.edu

We believe that we are one community serving students and one another. To that end, professional development at CLC supports opportunities for holistic growth and learning for all employees. We recognize the importance of fulfilling the specific needs of each employee group in order to enhance the learning experience of our students.