

TO: Faculty

FROM: Michael J. Licari *MJL*
Provost and Vice Provost for Academic Affairs

DATE: October 6, 2015

SUBJECT: Course Transformation Academy

I am excited to announce a call for participation in the second cohort of the Course Transformation Academy (CTA) at Indiana State University. The CTA was launched in the spring to help faculty think about ways of transforming their courses to increase student learning. Several faculty teams in departments across the University participated in the first round of course redesign and are currently piloting courses using new methods of engaging with students, new technology, and expanded support systems to offer students assistance both in and out of the classroom. Course redesign holds great promise for helping more of our students achieve at a higher level.

We are partnering with the National Center for Academic Transformation (NCAT) on this initiative in order to benefit from their vast knowledge of proven methods for helping students to become more successful in the classroom. Our Faculty Fellow for Course Transformation, Dr. Jennifer Schriver, is working closely with NCAT to assist faculty in analyzing current course challenges and developing strategies to deliver content and support students in more effective ways. I see participation in the CTA as vital to improving success rates in high-enrolled courses and to ultimately increasing student persistence and graduation.

I've attached a more complete announcement of the CTA's program on course redesign. Applications are due on November 13, and I hope that faculty will seriously consider engaging in this important process.

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cc: Jennifer Schriver

Course Transformation Academy at Indiana State University

Faculty teams are invited to participate in the second year of a campus-wide initiative focused on increasing student learning through the transformation of undergraduate courses. The Course Transformation Academy (CTA) is coordinated through the Faculty Center for Teaching Excellence (FCTE) with a goal of assisting faculty to redesign all sections of key courses at the University that serve large numbers of students. The intent of the CTA is to leverage the very best thinking nationally about such courses as well as innovative practices that have shown evidence for ensuring high standards, increasing student learning, and enhancing student course performance. The CTA is an example of ISU's commitment to recognizing the importance of excellence in the classroom.

PRIMARY GOALS OF THE CTA

- increase student learning
- serve as a means of institutionalizing ongoing attention to course and curricular improvement
- provide faculty development opportunities related to teaching strategies that improve student learning
- decrease rates of student failure
- increase graduation rates
- retain cost neutrality when redesigning courses, such that the course is not more expensive to deliver after the redesign

In order to have maximum impact on student learning, this program will focus specifically on undergraduate courses with high enrollment. Faculty in departments with high-enrolled courses are strongly encouraged to apply. Faculty will be supported by teams both within and outside their academic departments. Participation will involve a year-long process, beginning in January, 2016.

RESOURCES AND SUPPORT FOR PARTICIPANTS

Course redesign is a lengthy process that requires teams of faculty participants to have the necessary resources available to them to be successful. Examples of available support include:

- campus visits from discipline-specific consultants who have had success redesigning a similar course.
- attendance at a conference that is relevant to course redesign.
- travel to a regional campus that has redesigned a similar course.
- one course buy-out for one semester to the faculty team leader. There is the possibility of a stipend in lieu of a course release in exceptional circumstances.
- expertise from instructional designers to assist with technology and other aspects of the course.
- attendance at a conference *after* the course redesign has been completed in order to report on one's findings

The CTA engaged several academic departments in the spring semester to serve as the first cohort for course transformation. The Department of Math and Computer Science (MATH 102 and MATH 115), the Department of Communication Disorders and Counseling, School, and Educational Psychology (ESPY

302), the Department of History (HIST 113) and the Department of Kinesiology, Recreation, and Sport (PE 101) have each undergone an intensive process of course redesign and are piloting redesigned sections this semester. Additionally, the Department of Accounting, Finance, and Insurance and Risk Management (FIN 108) is in the early stages of participation. Lessons learned from these projects will help shape future course redesigns at ISU.

APPLY TO PARTICIPATE IN THE CTA

Applications for participation are available at <http://www2.indstate.edu/fcte/cta.htm> and are due by November 13. A maximum of three courses are envisioned to be selected to participate in 2016.

Dr. Jennifer Schriver, a professor in the Department of Psychology, is serving as a Faculty Fellow for the CTA and is leading the efforts on course redesign at ISU. Dr. Schriver is working closely with Dr. Beth Whitaker in the FCTE.

To learn more about this exciting initiative, plan to attend an orientation workshop on redesigning college courses on Wednesday, October 21 from 8:30-9:30am in the FCTE. Dr. Jennifer Schriver will discuss national models for course redesign and will present information about the CTA at ISU. Breakfast will be provided and a reservation is required. See the FCTE's website to reserve a seat.