


Focus on Faculty

Montgomery College

Center for Teaching and Learning

February 2000

From the Editor



In the fall of 1999, the CTL expanded and is now officially college-wide, gaining resources to add necessary staff and expand our scope. Already helping faculty master new technology, we have looked for other ways to help faculty improve their teaching—offering workshops on classroom assessment techniques, inviting experts from off-campus to present workshops on topics related to teaching and learning, and starting a major initiative to mentor new faculty and adjuncts. However, outside experts aren't the only source of good ideas. All of our faculty—full time, part time, adjunct and CE—know what works in MC classrooms. Therefore, we are initiating this publication as a place for faculty to share their expertise, on topics including but not limited to technology, by submitting articles for publication in this newsletter. By sharing ideas here, we can all do a better job of meeting the needs of MC students. For information on submitting articles, see page 2.

-Helen Youth

CTL Associates and Fellows Named for Spring 2000

The CTL has announced twenty new fellows and associates for spring 2000. Fellows are faculty receiving release time to develop alternate instructional approaches for their classrooms. Associates receive release time to use their special skills to help other faculty realize their teaching goals. Fellows for fall 1999 worked on a wide variety of projects: developing readings to augment a studio art class, creating a web enhanced microbiology course, using Blackboard to improve writing in ESL courses, and creating an electronic version of a lab manual for General Biology. Applications for fellowships are distributed in March/April and October/November. Look for details about this semester's projects in later newsletters.

Associates

Germantown

Bryant Davis

Tom Price

Joan Naake

Rockville

Betsy Becker

Carol Decker

Sue Liggett

Harry St. Ours

Takoma Park

Jan paul Miller

Ostein Truitt

Fellows

Germantown

Virginia Mayes

Rockville

Terry Dryoff

Roseli Ejzenberg

David Lott

Christine McMahon

Gail Schmitt

Sarah Stecher

Usa Vankatesh

Betsy Zwing

Takoma Park

Bonita Campbell

Ijeoma N. Otigbuo

Focus on Faculty is published by the CTL to offer faculty a place to share information about teaching and learning.



Joint Workshop Planned for March 23

For the past few years, Montgomery College has teamed up with UMUC and CE to present professional development workshops relevant to faculty from both institutions. The next joint workshop will be on Thursday, March 23, 2000, on the Rockville Campus from 6 p.m. to 9 p.m. Bill Pierce, who teaches both at the community college and university levels, will help faculty understand students' difficulties trying to do analytical tasks from the perspective of different learning styles. Workshop attendees will learn how to design activities and assignments that fit a variety of learning styles and that help train students whose learning and thinking styles might not fit their courses well. To register phone 301-869-3841 or e-mail BetsyEBGB@aol.com.

Education Expert to Speak March 30

Dr. Vincent Tinto, professor of education at Syracuse University and project director of the National Center on Post-secondary Teaching, Learning and Assessment, will visit MC on March 30. Dr. Tinto researches ways to increase student learning and retention, especially at community colleges, where two thirds of those who begin as full-time students do not finish.. In his writings (*Leaving College: Rethinking the Causes and Cures of Student Attrition* and *Building Learning Communities for New College Students*), Tinto acknowledges that community college students face special obstacles—added work and family responsibilities, without the peer support a residential campus would provide. To achieve success in this more challenging setting, Tinto says that students need to be more involved in their college experience. However, instead of focusing on student behaviors and obligations in establishing that involvement, he examines faculty roles in constructing supportive environments which make students eager to participate. In his spring presentation, Tinto will discuss ways MC faculty can build such social, emotional, and academic peer support. Watch for schedule details in the March newsletter.

Articles Needed for March

I'm very pleased to be compiling this publication as a place for faculty to share information about teaching and learning. I hope that full time, adjunct, and CE faculty will submit articles about what works in the classroom. I'll also use these pages to announce upcoming CTL workshops and highlight faculty achievements. Since coming to MC as adjunct faculty in 1996, I have been interested in professional development. Although I had many years of teaching experience, that experience had been in institutions very different from MC. To learn more from colleagues, I first worked on the English department's newsletter and then moved to CE, organizing professional development activities for that group of faculty. Compiling this newsletter as a forum for faculty to share ideas is a natural outgrowth of these past interests. Please help make this publication a success by submitting your contributions according to the guidelines below.

- Betsy Becker

Cable TV Schedule

The CTL Show airs on Mondays at 8 p.m., Tuesdays at 9 p.m. and Thursdays at 9 p.m. on Cable Channel 51.

Feb. 21, 22, 24	CTL Fellows and Associates - Sue Liggett, Harry St. Ours, Ostein Truitt, Jim Sneizak, Bryant Davis
Feb. 28, 29, Mar. 2	Multimedia Workstations at MC Alan Vincent
Mar. 6, 7, 9	Humanities Institute CD-ROM Project Alan Vincent

Guidelines for Contributions to Focus on Faculty

The deadline for submission of articles for the April issue of Focus on Faculty is Friday, March 30, 2000. Please submit typed, double-spaced, hard copies of your articles of no more than 800 words and a disk copy in Microsoft Word to:

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Room 008, Humanities
Rockville Campus
or send e-mail to ctl@mc.cc.md.us