

The **Center for the Advancement of Teaching** invites faculty to apply for the

## **Faculty Learning Community on Supporting Under-Prepared Students**

One of the biggest challenges an educator can face is dealing with the large range of student readiness and relative levels of development often found in our classes. We want all our students to succeed, but don't always know how to stay focused on the learning goals of our course while meeting the needs of students who have gaps in prerequisite knowledge or learning and personal management skills.

Participants in this learning community will explore the following questions:

- What can I do to make sure I know how prepared my students are to succeed, both at the start of the semester and as each new challenge in the course appears?
- How can I support students whose prior education has not afforded them the background knowledge or skills to achieve the learning goals of the course?
- How can I structure the course to move away from the deficit model of students implied by the prior two questions?

Throughout the semester, faculty will develop learning activities and assignments to implement in a course in Spring of 2023. Regular meetings will include readings, discussions, collaborative working sessions, and hands-on workshops. The faculty learning community will decide as a group how best to use the expertise they gain in order to support the Temple faculty community at large.

**Facilitators:** Dana Dawson, Associate Director, CAT  
Jeff Rients, Assistant Director, CAT

### **What is a Faculty Learning Community?**

A faculty learning community is a cross-disciplinary group of 10-12 faculty who work together over an extended period of time to explore a specific topic related to their professional teaching practice. In this supportive environment, faculty explore best practices, engage in deep discussion about the topic and then share their work with the faculty community at large so as to support their colleagues in this area.

### **Faculty commit to:**

- Attend Zoom meetings on Thursdays from 2:00 - 3:30 pm on the following dates: September 8, September 22, October 6, October 20, November 3, November 17, December 1, and one meeting in February TBD.
- Complete readings, activities and assignments between meetings.

- Develop and implement learning activities and assignments for at least one course in the Spring of 2023.
- Share the expertise gained in the faculty learning community with a larger faculty audience. This may include giving a presentation, providing resource materials on the topic, publishing the findings of the work, or other methods agreed upon by the cohort.

**Benefits:**

- Enhance ability to design a learning environment to support a wide range of student proficiency.
- Help students develop as self-regulated learners who can succeed in any new learning situation.
- Network with an interdisciplinary group of colleagues.
- Receive a \$500 stipend paid at the completion of the program.\*

\*Faculty at professional schools who are on 12-month contracts participate every year in FLCs, but are not able to be compensated with a stipend.

**To Apply:**

Please respond to each of the following questions in 250-300 words per question.

1. Give an example of a strategy you use as a teacher and explain how it supports student learning in your course.
2. Describe your current thoughts about the challenges of working with under-prepared students. In what ways do these issues currently manifest in your classroom?
3. In what ways, if any, have you attempted to address the issue of under-prepared students in your class?
4. What do you hope to gain as a result of your participation in this faculty learning community?

**Save your application as a Word document or PDF file, and then [click here](#) to submit your application online.**

**The deadline for submissions is Monday, May 23, 2022.**

**Questions?**

Contact Dana Dawson, Associate Director of the Center for the Advancement of Teaching at [dana.dawson@temple.edu](mailto:dana.dawson@temple.edu).