

South Dakota State University
Teaching Learning Center

Summer 2008 Teaching Academy
Summary Report

The Summer Teaching Academy is offered by the Teaching Learning Center at SDSU as a faculty development opportunity with the support of Provost Peterson and funding from the Office of Academic Affairs.

The Summer Teaching Academy took place from Monday, June 23 to Thursday, June 26, 2008. After careful examination of previous years' evaluations and discussion within the Faculty Development Committee, the Academy was structured differently. With a focus on Scholarship of Teaching and Learning, participants were accountable for their individual learning by putting together individual or group SoTL project plans to be implemented at a later time. Each plan would include a question (problem), a literature search, a research plan to address the problem, an assessment plan, and possible venues for sharing and/or publishing the results.

The format was also different: the participants were not divided into cohorts but formed one group, and the week-long Academy was shortened to a four-day week with only two face to face mornings in order to encourage participation.

The Academy, presented by Denise Peterson, and Debra DeBates, started on Monday with a face to face meeting for four hours. The presenters introduced SoTL, explained the objectives and the expectations of the Academy, and presented the assignments, timeline, and the deadlines. Resources were also shared and schedule was covered. On Tuesday and Wednesday participants worked on their own with guidance from the presenters who had office hours and were available electronically. Then Friday was a wrap up face to face meeting for four hours when participants presented their snapshots of their SoTL projects. There was also a panel presentation by most of the Omaha CASTL conference participants from SDSU (Patty Hacker, JoAnn Sckerl, Loye Romereim-Holmes, and Teresa Seefeldt).

According to the presenters' recommendations, each of the participants received the book: *Enhancing Learning Through the Scholarship of Teaching and Learning: The Challenges and Joys of Juggling* by Kathleen McKinney and K. Patricia Cross.

There were twelve participants from the Colleges of Arts and Sciences, Family and Consumer Sciences, General Studies, Engineering, and Agriculture and Biological Sciences. There were also participants from the Service Learning and the Global Studies programs. Participants registered online and filled out a support form by their supervisors.

Each faculty member will receive a stipend of \$400.00 for participation in the four-day week learning experience and one of the two presenters will receive a \$2,000. The other presenter is under twelve-month contract with SDSU. Certificates of Appreciation were made for the presenters, signed by Dr. Helling, Associate Vice President for Academic Affairs and Dr. Andrawis, Teaching Learning Center Coordinator, and presented to them at the end of the Academy on Thursday.

Refreshments on Monday and Thursday were provided with funds from the College of Arts and Sciences.

According to the participants' evaluations, the two presenters did an excellent job and the participants had a good learning experience. The one recommendation for future offerings was to make the length of the Academy longer for beginners and to have a separate advanced SoTL Academy.

Three ideas for follow up emerged: a brown bag series for participants to give follow ups on their projects, an SoTL website on InsideState including the participants' SoTL project plans, and a faculty learning community in the coming academic year to read the SoTL book given to the participants.