

Introduction

The Saint Louis University Graduate School founded the Teaching Resource Center in 1992 to develop an effective teacher training program for the preparation of graduate teaching assistants. For the first year, the Teaching Resource Center objectives were to design a library with videotapes of Saint Louis University teachers, tape teacher lectures, and provide consultations about teaching and learning for teaching assistants. In 1993, the University Board of Graduate Studies approved a proposal to establish a certificate in university teaching. With the expanding needs of teaching assistants, requests for services from faculty, and a greater emphasis on technology in teaching, a Center for Teaching Excellence was established on July 1, 1997. The Reinert Center for Teaching Excellence invites faculty and graduate students to discover its programs and activities and to come together to form a community to discuss the dynamics of teaching, learning, technology, and scholarship.

Support Services

Pre-Tenured Faculty Portfolio Development Retreat

The Reinert Center for Teaching Excellence hosts an annual two-day retreat for pre-tenured faculty to come together to analyze, reflect, and document evidence of their teaching, research and service. Participants leave the retreat with a draft of their academic portfolio .

Certificate in University Teaching

The Reinert Center for Teaching Excellence takes responsibility for preparing future faculty and enhancing the quality of undergraduate and graduate education by offering the Certificate in University Teaching Skills to graduate students and faculty. The program requirements include the following:

- Attend ten Effective Teaching Seminars
- Prepare a philosophy statement on teaching and scholarship
- Have classroom instruction videotaped
- Obtain peer observation of classroom instruction
- Design a professional teaching portfolio
- Incorporate computer and distance learning technology into teaching
- Consult with a faculty mentor about philosophy statement, classroom instruction, and overall portfolio development

Effective Teaching Seminars

The Reinert Center for Teaching Excellence sponsors workshops and seminars on topics ranging from pedagogical methodologies and philosophies to classroom and distance learning technologies.

Graduate Assistant Orientation

The Reinert Center for Teaching Excellence sponsors an orientation for all graduate students receiving an assistantship at the beginning of each academic year. This includes information on services and sessions on critical topics.

Teacher Consultations

Graduate students and faculty may arrange confidential consultations with the Reinert

Center for Teaching Excellence staff to analyze teaching, set goals, and modify instruction. A few of the techniques employed in the service of instructional improvement include small group instructional feedback (SGIF) sessions, videotaping, class observations, and collection of student evaluations.

Technology and Blackboard Consultations

The Center promotes and supports the integration of technology into teaching by providing instructional design assistance, online resources, workshops and consultations on using technologies in teaching. The Center offers regularly scheduled workshops on how to set up courses in Blackboard and how to use the features of Blackboard

Service-Learning

Service-Learning links service and academic study so that each strengthens the other. The Center works in partnership with the Office of Student Development to support service learning on campus. Specifically, this partnership provides support in curriculum development, community site placements, assistance with reflective activities and evaluation of service learning. Additional information can be found at <http://servicelearning.slu.edu>.

The Reinert Center for Teaching Excellence also sponsors teleconferences, outside speakers, and faculty conversations on teaching.

Mission

The mission of the Paul C. Reinert, S.J. Center for Teaching Excellence is to support Saint Louis University faculty and graduate students so that they can better serve the intellectual, spiritual, and social needs of all learners. To fulfill this mission the Center:

- Helps faculty and graduate students find their own directions, meaning and pedagogical style in the context of Jesuit traditions of education
- Develops a community of scholars who encourage and challenge each other through mutual inspiration, mentoring and renewal
- Supports faculty and graduate students in the development of skills and knowledge of pedagogical approaches using technology and other teaching innovations

The Paul C. Reinert, S.J. Center for Teaching Excellence

Director: Mary Stephen, Ph.D.

Program Director for Learning: Sandy Gambill, M.Ed.

Program Director for Teaching: Beth Hill, Ph.D.

Program Director for Service Learning: Mark Pousson, M.S.W.

Administrative Secretary: Mary Toebe

phone: 314-977-3944

email: cte@slu.edu

web: www.slu.edu/centers/cte



SAINT LOUIS UNIVERSITY
The Reinert Center for Teaching Excellence
Academic Resources Center, Suite 224
3840 Lindell Boulevard
St. Louis, Missouri 63108

The Paul C. Reinert Center for Teaching Excellence



at
Saint Louis University