

# WHAT IS THE SCHOLARSHIP OF TEACHING AND LEARNING (SoTL)?

At Illinois State University, we define SoTL as the “*systematic reflection/study on teaching and learning [of ISU students] made public.*”

This definition was created to include a wide range of research (broadly defined) on the teaching and learning of our ISU students that is presented, published, created, or performed. SoTL is conducted by instructors, usually on the learning of their own students. SoTL is directly linked to our ISU strategic plan, *Educating Illinois*, including explicit mention in Action F, Strategy 2, Goal 2. The primary support for SoTL work on campus comes from the Office of the Cross Endowed Chair in SoTL, reporting to the VP of Research within the Office of the Provost.

## WHY IS SoTL IMPORTANT?

SoTL is an international, cross-disciplinary form of scholarship. SoTL research provides an evidence-base for the choices we make as course instructors in an effort to maximize student learning. So, whether using SoTL as a consumer to inform a scholarly approach to teaching or as producer of SoTL research engaged in this form of scholarship, SoTL is valuable to all teachers and students at ISU.

## ISU VALUES SoTL

ISU is one of the few universities in the world with a campus unit dedicated solely to the support of SoTL for faculty and students. SoTL is specifically mentioned in *Educating Illinois* and aligns with our institutional definitions of scholarship and of research as a form of discovery and/or integration. Thus, SoTL should be rewarded in the ASPT process as meritorious scholarship since the products of SoTL (presentations, publications, videos, performances, etc.) are clearly listed under Evaluation Guidelines and Criteria for Scholarly and Creative Activity.

The Office of the Cross Endowed Chair provides the following to support new and established faculty and students at ISU:

- Workshops and other learning opportunities to introduce SoTL or expand on existing knowledge of this form of scholarship
- Resources to support the engagement of faculty and students in SoTL research
- Support for the implementation/creation of SoTL research
- Funding for travel to present research/attend SoTL conferences locally, nationally, and internationally
- An internal annual SoTL publication: *Gauisus* (Gauisus.weebly.com)
- Recognition for campus SoTL scholars
- Interactive website filled with resources for those interested in SoTL or scholarly teaching

**FOR MORE INFORMATION ABOUT SoTL AT ISU,  
EMAIL [JFRIBE@ILSTU.EDU](mailto:jfribe@ilstu.edu) OR VISIT  
[SOTL.ILSTU.EDU](http://SOTL.ILSTU.EDU)**



## Contact Information for the Office of the Cross Endowed Chair in SoTL:

Jennifer Friberg, Cross Endowed Chair in SoTL, can address questions or set up consultations related to SoTL:

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(309) 438-7706

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## ADDITIONAL RESOURCES FOR FACULTY:

Visit our website ([sotl.ilstu.edu](http://sotl.ilstu.edu)) to see examples of SoTL work done by ISU students and faculty, discover opportunities for travel/research support, or to find other valuable SoTL resources.

Follow us on Twitter to get news related to SoTL at ISU and beyond ([@ISU\\_SoTL](https://twitter.com/ISU_SoTL) or [@jacfriberg13](https://twitter.com/jacfriberg13)).

Read our weekly blog, *The SoTL Advocate*, for information about SoTL on campus and beyond. We feature guest authors regularly, so contact Jen Friberg if you would like to contribute to the blog! ([illinoisstateuniversitysotl.wordpress.com](http://illinoisstateuniversitysotl.wordpress.com))

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