

ORGANIZING TO FOSTER THE SCHOLARSHIP OF TEACHING AND LEARNING

Illinois State University Cluster

SoTL Colloquium, March 31-April 1, 2004, San Diego

Core Members of the Cluster include Buffalo State College, Dominican University, Purdue University Calumet, Richard Stockton College, South Dakota State University, Southeast Missouri State University, Southern Illinois University Edwardsville, St. Olaf College, University of Southern Maine, and Western Carolina University.

Our **Cluster goal** is to enhance the support for, value and recognition of, and practical application of SoTL on our Core member campuses. These ten campuses are in the early to middle stages of doing SoTL work. These campuses are geographically dispersed around the nation and vary in terms of Carnegie classification, size, culture, and mission. Each Core campus has one or two representatives to the Cluster for communication purposes. In addition, we have asked each campus for the contact information of a librarian interested in working to enhance SoTL. We communicate with each other primarily using virtual modes (telephone, email, web center) but have also begun cross campus visits. We also meet face-to-face, of course, at the SoTL colloquium and the Summer Academy. We believe it is essential to work collaboratively while recognizing the diversity of institutions and local SoTL issues and objectives.

Cluster Activities, completed or in progress, to achieve our goal:

- Visits to/conducting SoTL workshops at each other's campuses.
- Creating and sharing information and documents, such as questionnaires on SoTL that can be given to faculty, a bibliography on SoTL, handouts that could be used in a SoTL workshop, links to SoTL web sites, and information about SoTL conferences.
- Posting resources to the Web Center.
- Helping to move Western Carolina's on-line SoTL journal, *MountainRise* from a "regional" to a "national" outlet by having Core members join as editorial board members and by soliciting manuscripts from faculty at Core member schools.
- Studying the status of SoTL on Core campuses to help make decisions about future activities and use of resources on these campuses (at least five Cluster members have conducted questionnaire studies).
- Coordinating with a librarian from each Core member to help support SoTL on each campus.
- One or more individual campuses have begun or updated the following: SoTL grant program, SoTL web page, SoTL workshops or discussions, local SoTL conferences or publications, and working at the department level.

Ideas for Cluster activities we plan to begin at the Colloquium and continue at the 2004 Summer Academy:

- Collect, write, and share a document containing examples of appropriate wording related to SoTL for faculty evaluation/promotion documents.
- Collect or create, write, and share a document containing strategies to promote SoTL and SoTL work on campus with upper administrators on our campuses.
- Collect or create, write, and share a document containing strategies to promote SoTL on campus by working at the department and discipline level.