

Assignment #4: 2003 Summer Academy Cluster Results
July 19, 2003

Cluster : Organizing to Foster the Scholarship of Teaching and Learning

1. Describe your cluster team:

The purpose of this cluster is to enhance the support for, value and recognition of, and practical application of the scholarship of teaching and learning (SoTL) on core member campuses. Institutions (i.e. core members) committed to this purpose are:

Buffalo State College	South Dakota State University
Dominican University	Southeast Missouri State University
Illinois State University (Cluster Leader)	St. Olaf College
Purdue University Calumet	Western Carolina University
Richard Stockton College	

2. Describe your academy project:

We will work collaboratively to accomplish the following:

- Share SoTL resources with other members of the cluster
- Clarify and expand the definition of the Teacher-Scholar Model and further develop key performance indicators for teaching effectiveness.
- Conduct assessments to document the work of the cluster and development of SoTL at core member institutions
- Disseminate information on the work of the cluster to core member institutions and constituents external to the cluster
- Share and develop strategies for promoting SoTL at core member institutions
- Pursue external funding to support the work of the cluster

3. What are your team's most significant accomplishments at this academy?

We have grown from a loose affiliation of people to a team committed to working together to advance SoTL on our campuses. The draft of the action items we intend to pursue will be a valuable document for beginning dialogues on our campuses about the value of working as a cluster.

4. What do you hope to accomplish by the end of this coming year?

- Gain acceptance of the work of the cluster among key individuals at each core member institution
- Establish a baseline of SoTL work being conducted at core member campuses
- Share resources among core members including examples of SoTL work from each campus
- Collaborate on the development of summer institutes
- Find and share funding sources

5. How will you measure the success of your project?

Ultimately the success of our project will be increased consumption and production of SoTL at our individual campuses. Integral to our project is the development of an ongoing assessment project that will guide our efforts over the next three years.

6. How has the Summer Academy shaped the work of your cluster?

Since we had never met previously the academy was essential to the formation of our group and has provided a valuable environment for getting our project successfully started. We have clarified our purpose, articulated action items, and set the stage for long term success of our cluster.