

## **SoTL Cluster: Organizing to Foster the Scholarship of Teaching and Learning** Action Items - July, 2004

### Overview

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)	Southern Illinois University Edwardsville
Purdue University Calumet	St. Olaf College
Richard Stockton College	Western Carolina University

Creating a culture on each campus where the role of the faculty, both individually and collectively, is viewed in a more comprehensive and integrated way, where equal respect and reward is given to faculty members who emphasize the scholarship of teaching and learning as those who engage in disciplinary scholarship, is central to our mission as a cluster. The implications of this mission are that the cluster must engage in activities that take advantage of the diverse cultures and resources of the core member institutions and conduct activities that will support SoTL on individual campuses.

Representatives of each core member will contribute to the health of the cluster by adhering to the following **principles of association**. We will:

- Maintain communication with other members including sharing information on the AAHE Web Center
- Build support for the work of the cluster on core member campuses
- Develop and share resource materials to assist other members in their efforts
- Disseminate ideas and outcomes of the cluster's work in other settings (e.g., AAHE summer academy, CASTL colloquium, professional association meetings, individual campuses)

The core members of the cluster propose the following **action items**.

1. Share SoTL resources with other members of the cluster
2. Conduct assessments to document the work of the cluster and development of SoTL at core member institutions
3. Disseminate information on the work of the cluster to core member institutions and constituents external to the cluster
4. Share and develop strategies for promoting SoTL at core member institutions
5. Pursue external funding to support the work of the cluster
6. Create an electronic data base of SoTL researchers
7. Establish the call for proposals and evaluation criteria for the Cluster Scholars Collaborative Grant Program
8. Create a document of preferred example language about SoTL for annual evaluation and tenure and promotion guidelines
9. Develop strategies to promote SoTL at the Departmental and Campus levels with recommendations for administrative support.

**Organizing to Foster the Scholarship of Teaching and Learning**  
Action Items - July, 2004

Action Item	Activities	Accountability (By whom?)	Timetable (By when?)	Status
<b>Share SoTL resources with other members of the cluster</b>	1. Collect and share definitions of SoTL	1. Core member reps	1. 10/15/03	1. Completed
	2. Collect and share examples of SoTL work conducted by faculty at each institution	2. Core member reps	2. 10/15/03 for initial submission, but viewed as ongoing enterprise over life of cluster	2. In Process 7/04
	3. Share examples of SoTL work appearing in disciplinary literature	3. Core member reps; BSC (Scott Johnson) organize and compile	3. Submission by 10/15/03; compilation by 11/01/03, but viewed as ongoing over life of the cluster	3. Online version emerging
	4. Prepare a report summarizing programs and services designed to support SoTL conducted by each core member	4. Core member reps	4. 10/15/03	4. Fulfilled via snapshot on AAHE web center
	5. Share web resources	5. Cluster leader	5. 2/01/04 for initial list with regular updates	5. Website linked to AAHE web center
	6. Serve as consultants to each other (e.g. peer reviewers, panelists, trainers)	6. Entire cluster	6. Individuals serve as able when requested	6. Six visits completed 7/03-7/04

Action Item	Activities	Accountability (By whom?)	Timetable (By when?)	Status
<b>Share SoTL resources with other members of the cluster</b> (cont'd)	7. Develop list of faculty at each institution conducting SoTL to enable collaboration (if not performed by AAHE Web Center)	7. Core member reps	7. Year two	7. Initiated at Summer Academy 7/04
<b>Conduct assessments to document the work of the cluster and development of SoTL at core member institutions</b>	<p><b>Assessment of cluster goals</b></p> <p>1. Share existing survey instrument developed by ISU</p> <p>2. Collect other existing instruments and data</p> <p>3. Review collected instruments and data</p> <p>4. Create a set of common questions addressing consumption &amp; production of SoTL for survey instruments</p> <p>5. Conduct baseline assessment at each institution using individual surveys that include the common set of questions</p> <p>6. Share baseline data with the cluster</p> <hr/> <p><b>Assessment of Cluster Action Items</b></p> <p>7. Review the website for activities for each action item (1,3,4)</p>	<p>1. ISU</p> <p>2. All</p> <p>3. All</p> <p>4. All</p> <p>5. All Cluster institutions</p> <p>6. All Cluster institutions</p> <p>7. Cluster Leader</p>	<p>1. July 25, 2003</p> <p>2. Year one</p> <p>3. Year one</p> <p>4. Year one</p> <p>5. Year one</p> <p>6. Year two</p> <p>7. June 2004</p>	<p>1. Completed 8/03</p> <p>2. Completed 7/04</p> <p>3. Completed 7/04</p> <p>4. Completed 7/04</p> <p>5. In Process 7/04</p> <p>6. In Process 7/04</p> <p>7. Completed via Web snapshot and AAHE webcenter 7/04</p>

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<b>Conduct assessments to document the work of the cluster and development of SoTL at core member institutions (cont'd)</b>	8. Assess progress toward securing internal and external funding to support cluster activities	8. Cluster Leader	8. Annually	8. In Process 7/04; Carnegie/ AAHE Funding for Small Grant Program Obtained 6/04; Potential Funding Sources Posted on Web Center 6/04
<b>Disseminate information on the work of the cluster to core member institutions and constituents external to the cluster</b>	1. Communicate work of the cluster to campus groups through newsletters, teaching learning symposia, etc.  2. Make the e-journal <i>MountainRise</i> at Western Carolina University publication available to cluster members  3. Share ideas and progress at AAHE Summer Academy & CASTL colloquium  4. Organize a session on SoTL for the 2004 Carnegie Doctoral/Research Intensive conference to be held at Illinois State University	1. All  2. WCU  3. All  4. ISU	1. 2004 and ongoing  2. 3/01/04  3. 2004 and beyond  4. 2004	1. In Process  2. Completed  3. Completed 7/04  4. Completed 7/04

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<b>Disseminate information on the work of the cluster to core member institutions and constituents external to the cluster</b> (cont'd)	5. Communicate outcomes of the cluster an core members via the AAHE Web Center	5. All	5. Ongoing	5. In Process
	6. Core members will make presentations and publish manuscripts in campus, general higher education and discipline specific venues	6. All	6. Ongoing	6. In Process
	7. Teaching-Learning Campus Meetings/Summer Institutes: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Individuals from core member institutions will contribute to each other's events</li> <li>• Collaborate with other institutions outside the cluster to conduct events</li> </ul>	7. Interested core members	7. Ongoing	7. Incomplete
<b>Share and develop strategies for promoting SoTL at core member institutions</b>	1. Tabulate effective strategies to promote SoTL at core member campuses	1. All	1. 7/15/04	1. Completed at Summer Academy 7/04
	2. Disseminate effective strategies among core member campuses	2. All	2. 7/15/04	2. Moved to 2005 Action Plan

Action Item	Activities	Accountability (By whom?)	Timetable (By when?)	Status
<b>Share and develop strategies for promoting SoTL at core member institutions</b> (cont'd)	3. Promote broader acceptance of the teacher-scholar model and SoTL within faculty review and reward structures at core member campuses	3. All	3. Ongoing	3. Developed Language for P & T Doc at Summer Academy 7/04; Dissemination moved to 2005 Action Plan
<b>Pursue external funding to support the work of the cluster</b>	1. Pursue local funding at each campus where available 2. Identify potential funding sources to support the work of the SoTL cluster 3. Obtain initial grant funding based on the needs and accomplishments of the SoTL cluster 4. Secure ongoing grant funding to support the SoTL cluster	1. Cluster members 2. SDSU and DU with input from cluster members 3. One representative from each cluster institution 4. One representative from each cluster institution	1. 12/01/03 and ongoing 2. 6/01/04 3. 1/01/06 4. Year four and beyond	1. In Process 7/04 2. In Process 7/04 3. Obtained AAHE/ Carnegie Funding for Small Grant Program 6/04 4. Not applicable