

# SUMMARY REPORT OF PROGRESS ON PRACTICAL STRATEGIES TO PROMOTE SOTL ON CAMPUS

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and  
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**Action Items and Status for Practical Component of 2002 Summer Academy Project,  
“Enhancing Student Learning and Intellectual Community by Promoting the Scholarship  
of Teaching and Learning”** These items focus only on local efforts to support SoTL.

## Institute Cross SoTL grant program

We produced guidelines for, called for proposals, and reviewed fifteen SoTL grant applications. We awarded five SoTL grants to teams of faculty and students (total of \$16,000). The teams are well into their projects and team representatives have met regularly this year as a research/writing circle to assist and encourage each other. See <http://www.cat.ilstu.edu/sotl/smgrant.shtml> for the titles of these grants. We rewrote the SoTL grant guidelines for 03-04, including that proposals must explicitly address one or more values in *Educating Illinois*, and distributed them. Proposals were due April 30. X proposals for a total funding of \$?? were selected in May. The recipients and grant titles may be seen at the web site noted above.

## Design a non-credit summer institute on SoTL

We have designed the first institute, co-sponsored with CAT, which will be held from 9-12:30 for three days, May 20-22, 2003. The goals of this institute include providing an opportunity for Illinois State University faculty, academic staff, and graduate assistants to do the following: 1. learn more about the scholarship of teaching and learning (SoTL), including what it is, how to conduct it, how to make it public, how to document it for evaluation, and how to use it to enhance teaching and learning; 2. begin working on ideas for doing and/or making public a SoTL project; and 3. share ideas and information about SoTL with their colleagues. Fifteen faculty members from a wide range of departments and colleges applied and have been selected to participate. Each participant is obligated to attend and to complete the homework assignments. Participants must be currently under a University contract and eligible to receive an additional academic payment of \$300 in May 2003. In addition, each participant will receive one SoTL related book and a set of handouts. A tentative agenda and materials have been created and are available on request.

## Identify SoTL funding resources with assistance of RSP Office

I met with RSP staff about funding sources. I registered on IRIS and monitor funding opportunities in this area on a weekly basis. I post funding opportunities on our SoTL web site at <http://www.cat.ilstu.edu/sotl/index.shtml>.

## Facilitate SoTL Writing Circles and Teaching Learning Communities

In addition to the SoTL grant recipients' TLC, two SoTL Teaching-Learning Communities (TLC) met this fall. One other SoTL TLC was formed and was very active this spring. These TLCs wish to continue for next year. I, or a member of CAT staff, met with and facilitated these TLCs.

### Convene Campus Meeting to discuss various viewpoints related to SoTL

We co-sponsored, on February 4, with the teaching center, an open discussion of SoTL on campus. We are planning a follow-up session in the fall, where participants will share their SoTL ideas. Kathleen also met with faculty in three academic departments, thus far, to discuss SoTL, and spoke at the annual retiree breakfast about the Cross Chair on April 1 and to the University Research Council on May 1 about SoTL.

### Identify innovators and early adopters

We have an email list of over 100 faculty members (and a few staff) interested in SoTL work. Information on SoTL opportunities is sent to this list. We may consider a brownbag series and/or research/writing circles in the future. We have also created an ISU SoTL Resources Group consisting of faculty and staff with expertise in SoTL who are willing to help others with this work. The group has been “advertised” and is listed on our SoTL web site at <http://www.cat.ilstu.edu/sotl/resource.shtml>.

### Collaborate with people in various units

Along with co-sponsoring sessions, the summer institute, and TLCs on SoTL with CAT; working with RSP on funding opportunities; and obtaining assistance from Milner staff on SoTL resources, we have engaged in the following efforts at collaboration:

1. met with all the Deans and sent a letter to all Chairpersons in February offering to meet with any interested department faculty to talk about the definition of, place of, evaluation of, and reward for SoTL on campus. Thus far, I have received invitations from four departments to come speak to their faculty;
2. created and have shared with Deans, Chairs, and some faculty two handouts about SoTL and about the Cross Chair;
3. met with Gary McGinnis, Editor of the Illinois State University Scholar magazine, requesting the editorial board consider the idea of a regular column containing examples of SoTL work going on at Illinois State University. The magazine fell to the budget cuts. I am trying to find an alternative.