

The Provost's Academy on Critical Thinking



- NEW INITIATIVE

The Provost is funding an initiative to foster critical thinking that will lead to greater success in graduate and professional school acceptance for all UTSA graduates, but in particular those majoring in the so-called STEM disciplines (Science, Technology, Engineering, and Math). It will involve a four-day retreat with follow-up opportunities in early August for critiques of proposed course redesign models

- PURPOSE

The Academy will help faculty learn to teach more effectively, particularly in large STEM classes that need to engender critical thinking skills. Faculty will explore with nationally recognized experts, their UTSA colleagues and colleagues from community colleges whose students transfer to UTSA, effective ways to teach for significant learning and critical thinking.

- APPLICATION DEVELOPMENT

An application form—needing no letter, but an indication of your chair's approval—is available at the TLC website. The deadline for submission is Tuesday, April 14th. The Critical Thinking Committee will review the applications and notify those selected by Friday, April 24th.

May 27-30, 2009

Connally Room

UTSA HemisFair Park Campus

(Former Institute for Texan Cultures)

New Initiative for Helping Faculty to
Redesign Courses to Foster Critical
Thinking Skills through Deliberate
Teaching Choices and Skills

Who should attend? All faculty wishing to strengthen their teaching through a focused approach to course redesign with an emphasis on critical thinking should consider attending this initial four-day academy that will feature three nationally-known presenters and a panel of local faculty who teach large classes well. Craig Nelson, a professor emeritus from Indiana University and a Carnegie Foundation Outstanding Professor of the Year, is the featured speaker.

Craig has already begun conversations involving local chairs and faculty and faculty around the nation. We particularly encourage participation of newer faculty in the STEM disciplines who face large classes and demanding teaching loads. By learning to teach more effectively, faculty will also be learning to teach "smarter," and thus increasing their overall productivity.

Teaching & Learning Center
(210) 458-7374

Application form available at: www.utsa.edu/tlc

Thanks to the UTSA Provost's Office, the Academy is free to all selected participants. In addition to continental breakfasts and lunches, participants will receive a binder filled with relevant materials and supplementary materials on either a flash drive or a CD-rom. They will also receive complementary books.