

Center for Academic Excellence

Year End Report
2016-2017 Academic Year

This academic year, the Center for Academic Excellence continued to explore new ways to offer professional development opportunities to the faculty and staff at Millersville University. Traditionally, the CAE has mostly offered stand-alone, face-to-face sessions on specific topics of interest. Over the last three years, however, the CAE has worked to extend faculty engagement and participation over longer periods of time with the hope of having more impact.

Faculty Learning Communities:

In the Spring 2013, the CAE offered its first Faculty Learning Community built up on the book *Seven Research Based Principles for Smart Teaching*. Faculty Learning Communities are unique in that the group engages with a selected topic over the course of several weeks during the semester. During the 2016 – 2017 academic year, the CAE supported six FLCs centered on different topics. Across the different FLCs, over 60 faculty members were involved in these extended conversations.

Fall 2016 Faculty Learning Communities:

- **FLC on The Slow Professor (Berg & Seeber, 2016)**
Number of participants: 9
Lead member: Oliver Dreon, Director of the Center for Academic Excellence, Associate Professor, Educational Foundations
- **FLC on Small Teaching (Lang, 2016)**
Number of participants: 10
Lead member: Oliver Dreon, Director of the Center for Academic Excellence, Associate Professor, Educational Foundations
- **FLC on Discussion in the College Classroom (Howard, 2015)**
Number of participants: 11
Lead member: Lynn Marquez, General Education Coordinator, Professor, Earth Sciences

Spring 2017 Faculty Learning Communities:

- **FLC on The Spark of Learning (Cavanagh, 2016)**
Number of participants: 12
Lead member: Oliver Dreon, Director of the Center for Academic Excellence, Associate Professor, Educational Foundations
- **FLC on Evicted (Desmond, 2016)**
Number of participants: 10
Lead member: Ann Gaudino, Associate Professor, Educational Foundations

- **FLC on UDL in Higher Education (Burgstahler & Young, 2015)**
 Number of participants: 8
 Lead member: AnnMarie Licata, Director of the PA Inclusive Higher Education Consortium

Camp IDEA:

This week-long event is a joint program offered through the CAE, Instructional & Technology Support and the Associate Provost for Academic Administration. Over the last academic year, over 20 faculty members attended Camp IDEA where strategies for incorporating innovative instructional methods and assessment strategies are taught. Camp IDEA is offered in January and May each year.

Lancaster Learns:

Planned as a collaborative activity with seven other institutions of higher education in Lancaster County, *Lancaster Learns* was created to promote quality teaching and learning by building capacity for evidence-based pedagogy and learner-centered instruction. Entering its third year, *Lancaster Learns* continues to grow. Over 160 faculty from participating institutions attended the daylong event with 10 Millersville faculty members presenting sessions. More than 21 Millersville faculty members attended the event in February 2017.

Professional Development sessions:

The CAE facilitated 60 face-to-face sessions this academic year with 765 faculty members attending sessions. While this appears to return the programming to 2013-2014 levels, the growth is a result of a partnership with the Office of Student Affairs and Enrollment Management to promote their Maraudership Professional Development Series. Their office offered 22 Maraudership sessions this academic year and their numbers are included below.

Academic Year	Number of sessions	Attendees	Average attendance	Unique attendees
2013-2014	60	448	7.46	128
2014-2015	26	283	10.88	77
2015-2016	35	370	10.57	134
2016-2017	60	765	12.75	215

This growth in both average attendance and unique attendees is mainly due to a few critical aspects. One, CAE and Maraudership sessions are typically offered during Tuesday and Thursday Common Hours when more faculty and staff are able to attend. Additionally, the Spring 2017 calendar included three events (Faculty Convocation, the Cultivating Collaboration Luncheon and the Annual Assessment Luncheon) which were very well attended across campus. Each of these events were planned with the support of other departments, committees and offices across campus which increased the overall attendance. Almost 200 people attended these three events.

Monday Morning Mentors:

In addition to these face-to-face sessions, the Center offers “Monday Morning Mentors” through a subscription service with Magna Publication. These short, online sessions were available on-demand each Monday and *over 200 faculty members* attended one of the 30 online mentor sessions offered through the academic year.

Teaching Professor and Online Classroom Newsletters:

In Fall 2016, the CAE began subscribing to the Teaching Professor and Online Classroom newsletters. These newsletters offer targeted support for collegiate faculty in both face-to-face and online classrooms. Access to digital copies of the newsletters was tracked over the course of the 2016-2017 academic year. These newsletters were accessed 220 times over the course of the year.

Center for Academic Excellence website:

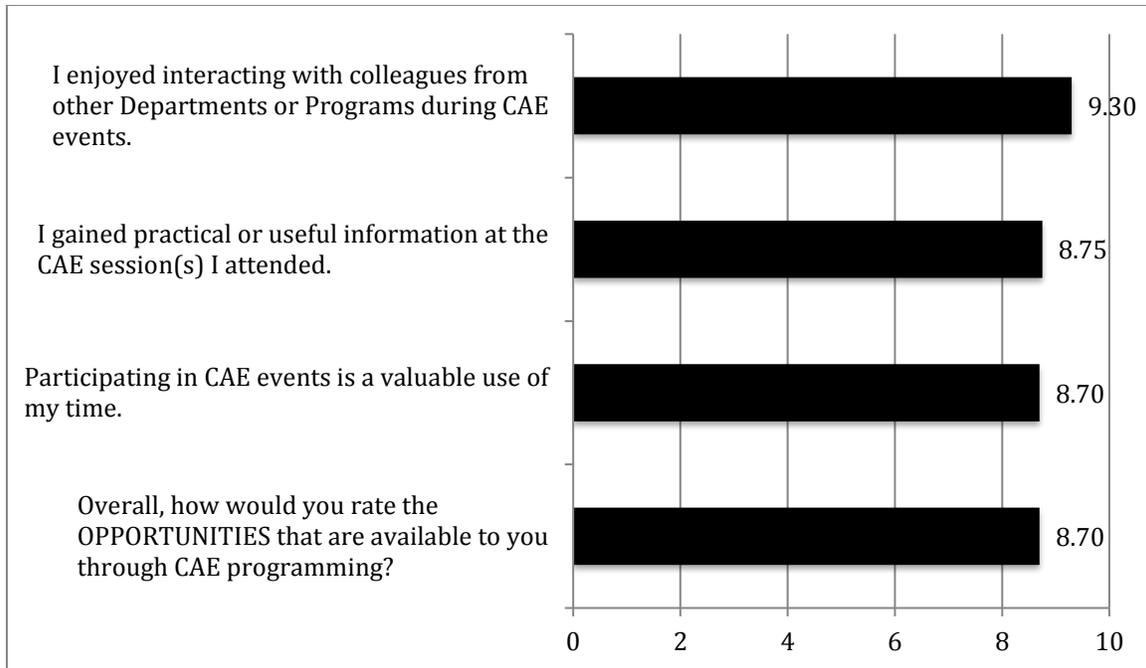
During the 2015-2016 academic year, the CAE began a focused expansion of the Center for Academic Excellence web page. Prior to the 2015-2016 academic year, the CAE web page was mainly used to communicate the face-to-face sessions being offered. From the end-of-the-year survey from 2014-2015, several respondents asked for more teaching and learning information on the site. Targeted pages were added to broaden faculty members’ understanding of important topics related to the roles on campus (formative assessment, growth mindset, syllabus design, etc.). As new pages were published, faculty members on campus were notified via email. A recurring feature called the Innovative Practices Spotlight was also added which identified faculty who were taking risks with their instructional strategies.

During the 2016-2017 academic year, website traffic on the CAE website was monitored. Over that time, the CAE website has been viewed *over 2000 times*.

	August 2016	Sept. 2016	Oct. 2016	Nov. 2016	Dec. 2016	Jan. 2017	Feb. 2017	March 2017
Total pageviews	238	366	75	234	186	315	277	327
Unique views	200	270	29	175	153	203	203	246

Faculty Perceptions of the Center for Academic Excellence:

Looking at the data from the year-end survey that was sent out in May 2017, the events offered by the CAE are valued by staff both for their professional development and for their connection to the campus community.



Planned Initiatives for the 2017-2018 Academic Year

New Faculty Mentoring

After talking with several early career faculty members, the need for a formal mentoring process was identified. Over the last decade, the CAE has offered informal mentoring for new faculty members who requested it. Very few new faculty members, however, took advantage of this. Starting in Fall 2017, all new faculty members will be partnered with a tenured faculty member from another department. Mentors and mentees will meet monthly through the fall in an informal yet structured mentoring process. Mentors are already lined up.

Adjunct Orientation Workshop

As part of the newly negotiated collective bargaining unit, the University is required to offer an orientation to all new adjuncts. To expand on this professional development opportunity, the CAE will offer a workshop for all adjuncts. The session will be offered in August 2017 and is being planned with the assistance of MU-APSCUF.

Campfire Sessions

Based on the Lesson Study model that is popular in Japan, Campfire sessions will allow faculty to volunteer and share their online classes to a group of colleagues. The presenters will share areas of pride (Glows) and areas that they're still working on (Grows). The sessions are designed to provide positive feedback for improvement, support reflective practice, and foster collaboration across faculty, especially for the cadre of faculty who have attended Camp IDEA. The CAE is planning to offer one Campfire session each month during the Fall semester. Faculty who are interested in showcasing their online classes and receiving feedback can

volunteer. We're hoping to have two presenters for each Campfire session, with each presenter showcasing their classes for about 20 minutes.