Teaching Learning Center

The Teaching Learning Center (TLC) nurtures instructional design, critical thinking, and technology skills for faculty at Cedar Valley College. The TLC provides assistance in instructional design and technology in a supportive environment. It also provides a forum for informal faculty discussion.

Pointy-headed Computer Geeks?

Recently, Dr. Jerry Cotton reminded CVC faculty that Teaching Learning Center workshops are not just for "pointed-headed computer geeks." He continued, "These are wonderful opportunities to expand your knowledge, learn teaching techniques for the classroom, as well as online, and share terrific experiences with our best and brightest faculty."

The TLC places no bounds on those "terrific experiences" or on the formality/informality of TLC association. In fact, the TLC supports the CVC "Fun with Learning," Strategic Goal. Just drop in when your area seems too harried or your office too small. Bring your lunch. Snag a treat from the middle table. Read a book. Meet a colleague. A 9-month TLC chess game? One has been proposed. Or the great TLC baking cook-off? Watch for an announcement.

Only four of ten March and April TLC workshops focus on technology. Although three of those four pertain to online course delivery, the fourth involves Microsoft Word, everybody's campus tool. The remaining six workshops could be called "non-traditional" by someone who perceives the Teaching Learning Center as a technology place.

Be in the know!
Update: Energy Efficient Green Building Institute
April 10, 2:00-3:00 p.m.
DCCC Innovation of the Year

FAQ: What is TAP?

TAP is an acronym for Teaching Analysis Poll, another service of the Teaching Learning Center.

Devised at the University of Virginia, TAP offers interactive course evaluation at an instructor's requested time in the semester. Students work candidly with a TLC consultant, who monitors and screens their re-

sponses for clarity. The consultant retains only those responses that receive a majority vote from students. In addition, no problem is recorded without a student-proposed solution.

"A TAP, especially one early in the semester, helps the students and the instructor get more from the course, " notes TLC Director Tim Barker, who adds that the

instructor gets an completely honest, confidential evaluation. "Only the instructor can request a TAP, and no records are kept at all."

Call 8239 to request a Teaching Analysis Poll.

For further information and details about the procedure, visit http://tlccvc.org/tap.htm.

INNOVATION IN THE CLASSROOM

Four in a Row

Four consecutive workshops illustrate the variety of offerings and participation as the Teaching Learning Center continues to nurture instructional innovation at Cedar Valley College.

Monday, March 6, 12:30-1:30	Vet Tech Staff: SoftChalk - Text Formatting
Tuesday, March 7, 12:30-1:30	Linda Ridgway: Another Language: Art
Wednesday, March 8, 12:00-1:00	Linda Noblin: The Culture of Guatemala
Thursday, March 9, 2:30-3:30	Ed Dawson: MS Word: Understanding Templates and Styles

If you have tips, techniques, or special interests to share, bring them on! The TLC would love to hear from you.

The TLC's Got Your Number

Yes, the Teaching Learning Center Web site recently had its one millionth hit, but our growth is not just virtual. Even though the usage numbers have been going up geometrically each year, I knew the numbers were much higher than what was being documented. This was because it was difficult to get customers to use our sign-in sheet. Starting this year, we moved to an electric eye system, and the numbers are staggering. Our electric eye has recorded 1,715 people entering the TLC during the past two months - more than signed in during all last year!

Unfortunately, since the electric eye doesn't discriminate and simply counts everyone walking into the TLC, we will have to wait a year to establish a benchmark for comparison. Nevertheless, I think the numbers show substantial TLC activity.

In addition, our workshops experienced growth. So far we have seen a 12% increase in workshop attendance in January and February of 2006 over January and February of 2005 - and our biggest week is yet to come.

Although we continue to grow, we are always on the lookout for new customers. We are willing to help with any teaching and learning project. If you have never done a Teaching Analysis Poll, try one out and see how effective they can be. We have expanded our workshop lineup and topics to attract more customers. If you haven't been to a workshop recently, we would love to see you here.

On the TLC Web site, we say that "our goal is to exceed your expectations." We hope we are achieving this. The TLC Staff thanks you for your support.

Tim Xeriland

1,000,000

As predicted, the Teaching Learning Center Web site experienced its one millionth hit early in the Spring 2006 semester.

TLC Director Tim Xeriland celebrated the milestone by treating TLC staff and attendees to pizza during a late February workshop.

During a recent Community Colleges Consortium luncheon, Jerry Cotton and former CVC dean Gerald Stanglin pondered how long it would take to count to a million. "If you managed to say one number per second…."

Whether or not Cotton and Stanglin completed their calculation before the next course, TLC computers affirm that reaching a million would require 11.573 days at one number per second. It is a very large number.

Congratulations, Tim Xeriland!

Cedar Valley College
DALLAS COUNTY COMMUNITY COLLEGES