

Workshop on Innovating Advising at Carleton College

DATES: Wednesday, August 30 (with an afternoon session follow-up at Headley House on October 3)

LOCATION: Alumni Guest House, Wednesday, August 30
Headley House, Tuesday, October 3

Advising is mentoring. Advising is coaching. Advising is unrewarded and unrewarding. Advising is a ?fill-in-the-numbers? meeting with a student. Advising is a life-changing process for students.

The subject of academic advising generates very different kinds of reactions from faculty. Yet there is no question that advising constitutes an important part of the work that we do at Carleton. We reserve time for it out of our busy schedules each term. For students, advising can shape their expectations about their academic life at Carleton. For first-year students especially, advising can shape their first impressions of the liberal arts. The benefits of good advising can be great, but faculty are not assessed or rewarded for doing it well. And all too infrequently, we find few opportunities to talk about advising with one another.

Here is an opportunity to change all of that! With the generous support of Associated Colleges of the Midwest (ACM), we will offer a one-day workshop on advising. Our goal is to discuss advising philosophies, practical approaches to it, and policy issues at Carleton. Sessions will include talks by experienced advisors, break out sessions on first meetings with new advisees inspired by video-taped skits of such meetings, and discussion of comfort zone cases (e.g., students with problems and concerns that do not fall neatly into the academic category).

We hope to attract faculty and staff members who are both experienced and new to advising at Carleton. New advisors will benefit from practical information about advising as well as the discussion of advising philosophy and policy questions. Experienced advisors will likely have much to offer in the way of cases and they will have much to gain from our discussions concerning current advising trends and what we as an institution might do for the future.

The workshop will begin with a continental breakfast and then offer lunch after the morning sessions, which will cover topics ranging from summer registration and the role of the academic fair to issues regarding the sophomore and senior years. In the afternoon, we will run parallel sessions. New advisors will receive practical information about the mechanics of advising and the rest of the group will continue the morning discussions. The seminar will adjourn at approximately 3 p.m., but we hope to close more informally with a dinner at a local restaurant and appropriate libations.

On October 3, we wish to follow up with seminar members on their advising experiences at the beginning of the fall term and a discussion of possible policy options

that would enhance advising at Carleton. This follow-up session will last approximately one and a half hours and it will be held at Headley House, 4:30-6:00 pm.

Questions? Email organizers Al Montero (amontero@carleton.edu) and/or David Musicant (dmusican@carleton.edu).

To sign up, please email Jennifer Cox Johnson (jcoxjohn@carleton.edu).

Stipends: Seminar participants will receive \$200 for their participation plus \$50 for their involvement in the follow-up session at Headley House. We hope to have 18-20 total participants.