Carleton College

Perlmans Center for Learning and Teaching (LTC) Willis 207

New Faculty winter break Teaching Workshop

Tuesday through Friday November 27-30

“The LTC workshop gave me a terrific sense of the excellence of my colleagues, the diversity of styles and approaches and the sense that it was worth trying new things — exciting, even worrying things — in my classes. I think the most important thing I learned was that I was not alone.”

Participant, Winter Workshop for New Faculty

During the workshop we explore common teaching/learning issues. We also learn from feedback on our own teaching, from observing others, and from the discussions that follow.

We look forward to challenging and exciting conversations focused on important issues about teaching in higher education and teaching at Carleton specifically. In order to tailor this workshop to your needs, we ask that you make note during fall term of possible topics for our week together in winter break. Your suggestions are valuable for making this workshop relevant and important to you and your teaching.

Please plan to join us.

The first and last days will include an optional lunch together. There will be a workshop stipend for each participant.

**Remember this workshop when making winter break travel plans!**

If you have any questions, contact Chico Zimmerman at 646-4191 (email: czimmerm), or Jennifer Cox Johnson at 646-4192 (email: jcoxjohn).
Questions and answers about the Student Observer program

What is the purpose?
Since its inception in the early 1970’s, the Student Observer Program has been offered to faculty as a means to discover how students view their teaching. The program provides faculty with students who observe class and offer information about their teaching that is both impartial and student-oriented.

Is the program available to all faculty?
Yes. In fact, faculty from a number of different departments have used the program. They include faculty who are tenured and untenured, permanent and temporary. The program is used by people offering large lectures and small discussion classes, by faculty who are experimenting with a new strategy, and by faculty who simply want to ascertain that their current pedagogical methods are working.

Who are the observers?
Student observers come to the program a number of ways but they apply because of their own interest in it and must provide recommendations from three professors. They are interviewed and trained through the LTC.

Is my participation in the program recorded?
Only if you choose to make it known. The only information going to the Dean of the College is the number and kind of faculty using the program. This is done strictly for budget and planning purposes. You are free to identify your student observer to your class. However, you need not do so. In their training student observers are cautioned about the need for confidentiality both in their status as observers and in the content of their conversations with faculty and students.

How do I get involved?
Complete the faculty application for a student observer. You will find this on the LTC website:

http://apps.carleton.edu/campus/ltc/services/observers/

and in the wall rack in the LTC. Call and we’ll send one to you. Following receipt of your completed application, the assistant to the coordinator will match your needs and schedule with an available student observer.

Observing is student work. The student comes to your classes, and meets with you weekly for a half-hour or so. At your first meeting you and your observer will discuss what you hope to achieve from your participation in the program.

More questions?
http://apps.carleton.edu/campus/ltc/

Contact Jennifer Cox Johnson, Assistant to the Coordinator, Perlman Center for Learning and Teaching
Willis 207 or at extension 4192, or by email: jcoxjohn@carleton.edu