



# CTE Newsletter

Center For Teaching Excellence

Fall, 2004

Volume 1, Number 1

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CTE is located in the Library across from the circulation desk. Stop by and utilize the resources kept in the office. Keys are available at the library circulation desk.

## Community Colleges

There are 1173 Community Colleges in the U.S.: 997-Public, 145-Private, 31-Tribal

## Interesting web sites

[www.league.org/](http://www.league.org/)  
*League for innovation in the community college*

[www.olin.org](http://www.olin.org)  
*Ohio Learning Network—consortium of Ohio's colleges and Universities using technology to enhance education*

[www.aacc.nche.edu/](http://www.aacc.nche.edu/)  
*American Association of Community Colleges*

[www.criticalthinking.org/](http://www.criticalthinking.org/)  
*Critical Thinking Consortium*

## Welcome to the inaugural Issue of the CTE Newsletter

The Center for Teaching Excellence (CTE) is proud to provide the inaugural issue of the CTE Newsletter. Perhaps we should call it the reincarnation of the CTE Newsletter, because CTE has sponsored newsletter versions in the past. In May 1975, the first Newsletter, entitled Probe, appeared under the direction of Steve Jonas, Director of Institutional Planning and Research. Harold Montgomery became the editor of Probe in June of 1986 and included several educational articles. Several issues of the Newsletter were published between the years 1994-98, to promote the CTE roundtables, workshops, and resource lists compiled at the Center's office in the library. Now, 30 years after the first publication, we are happy to again provide the LCCC faculty and staff information pertaining to teaching.

This version of the newsletter is going to look somewhat different than past copies, because we will be soliciting members of the faculty to provide the depth of information that will be provided. For example, we plan to have regular columns that deal with unique ways in which professors have taught classes, creating an educational philosophy, managing academic integrity, use of technology, developing a teaching portfolio, assessment, etc. One regular column will be "The Three Biggest Mistakes Made In Teaching", where teachers will be invited to write a short list of challenges encountered in and out of the classroom. A second will be entitled "Dealing With Ethics", where a short case study will be presented and several faculty will be invited to respond on how they would handle the situation. We hope you enjoy the new format. Please feel free to provide feedback to the editor (Vince Granito—4707 or [vgranito@lorainccc.edu](mailto:vgranito@lorainccc.edu)) or other members of CTE.

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## Message from the Chair: Dorinda Smith

### THE OLD IS NEW!

Vince Granito, new SSHS psychology faculty, volunteered to revive the Center for Teaching Excellence newsletter. Thank you, Vince!

### SEE CTE TO SEE...

A MOVEABLE FEAST, CTE IS HOUSED IN THE Learning Resource Center. But it brings offerings and ideas through workshops, roundtables, brown bag discussions and more. STUDENT BEHAVIOR IN THE CLASSROOM was recently addressed at a brown bag luncheon. Problems and their causes, potential solutions and resources were shared. IF THERE IS ENOUGH INTEREST, CTE will schedule another one. Contact me by calling Dorinda Smith at extension 7237 or emailing [dsmith@lorainccc.edu](mailto:dsmith@lorainccc.edu).

## Contact Us

CTE Homepage from the  
WWW page

vgranito@lorainccc.edu



**YOUR CONCERNS AND IDEAS** are sought by CTE. If you have a topic you wish addressed or an idea to promote teaching excellence at LCCC, contact me at the above extension or email address. The CTE Executive Committee meets monthly to discuss plans for faculty development days and other ways to serve.

**VISIT THE CTE WEBSITE TO LEARN** about Innovative Projects. Marilyn Valentino, A&H faculty member and her committee have done superior work on this program. The CTE website offers complete details on proposal requirements. Although this year's deadline has passed, you might want to consider planning for the next round of grants.

### WANT TO HELP?

Interested in becoming active as part of a committee or to lead a session? Just let me know. Do you have ideas to include or an article for the newsletter? Contact Vince [vgranito@lorainccc.edu](mailto:vgranito@lorainccc.edu) or call x4707.

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## Tips for Teaching Introductory Courses

**Editors Note:** *This article is adapted from Yale Psychologists Robert Sternberg's article entitled "Twenty Tips for Teaching Introductory Psychology"*

This article will summarize some of the research conducted in psychology on effective ways to teach introductory courses. **Tip #1:** Be selective on what you cover in the course. Introductory courses have so much information that the challenge to the instructor is not only what to include, but also what not to include. Instructors should refrain from trying to include just one more point. Allow students to pick up information from the book. **Tip #2:** Help students organize their knowledge base. Research has shown that students learn not only by being exposed to information, but also by the way they organize the information. Instructors can make use of outlines, summaries, tree diagrams, and maps to show the connections between the concepts being presented. **Tip#3:** Take into account where the students are coming from. At the community college level, there is a wide variation as to where students are in terms of study habits, motivation for the material, and knowledge. It may be more beneficial to teach where students are as opposed to where we want them to be. **Tip #4:** Teach to diverse styles of learning and thinking. Not all students learn the same way. Some students learn by hearing the information, some by seeing the information, some by thinking about the information, and some by applying the information. As an instructor of an introductory course, you should incorporate different ways of teaching the material. Research shows greater learning when teaching is matched with the learning style of the student. **Tip #5:** Encourage active learning and thinking. Research suggests that faculty still prefer to teach utilizing the lecture method, however, this style may be inefficient for introductory courses. A variety of interactive teaching, such as story telling, games, small group activities, presentations, role playing may enhance the learning. We'd like to here your innovative teaching style for future editions of the newsletter. Let us know!

*“A man (and woman) who has never gone to school might steal from a freight car; but if he has a university education he may steal the whole railroad”*  
Theodore Roosevelt

*“The principle goal of education is to create men (women) who are capable of doing new things, not simply of repeating what other generations have done”*  
Jean Piaget

*“Tell me and I’ll forget. Show me and I may not remember. Involve me and I’ll understand”* Native American Saying

## Dealing with Ethics

*Q. “How do you handle two students who continually talk in the back of your classroom”*

I usually will say “Excuse me. You can talk, but you’ll have to take your conversation outside the classroom”. When more than one are chatting away, I have said “I thought this was college”, Jackie Holland, Political Science, Adjunct Faculty.

I will talk to the student privately and tell them that they are disturbing me and the rest of the class. If the problem persists, then I will ask the student to leave the class. I’ve never had a student get to the second option, Vince Granito, Psychology Professor.

I stop class and ask the students to stop talking. If it continues, I will ask them to leave the classroom, Valerie McGowan-Doyle, History Professor.

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## The Center for Teaching Excellence: Karen Wells, Ed.D., Vice President for Learner Services and Chief Academic Officer

Lorain County Community College is fortunate to have highly motivated and intellectually curious faculty who demonstrate every day their commitment to a very diverse student body. One of the ways faculty demonstrate that commitment is through the activities that are sponsored by the Center for Teaching Excellence, including faculty development day luncheons featuring guest speakers, teleconferences, workshops on timely topics like assessment and weblogs, roundtables, webcasts, and publishing this newsletter.

For three years now, the Center has sponsored Innovative Learning Projects that bring teams of faculty and staff together to focus on improving retention. As a result of the ILP initiative, many students are continuing their education who would have been lost. I want to extend my gratitude and congratulations to all of the faculty who have participated in this initiative.

Today, advances in technology are blurring the lines between distance learning and land-based learning environments, and nearly all faculty are blending technology into their courses. This trend is based on a body of literature which demonstrates that technology improves access to learning, enhances student learning, and supports faculty in their daily work. I have asked the leadership of the Center to envision an LCCC response to this trend and look forward to their creative approach.

Finally, I want to encourage everyone who reads this newsletter to become active in the Center for Teaching Excellence. There is much to be done to address teaching excellence in a changing world.

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## CTE News and Faculty Info

- CTE Steering Committee Meeting (everyone is welcome) November 29, 2004 3-4pm CTE Office
- The University of Akron will offer a workshop on LCCC’s campus titled, **“Engaging Students in Learning”** January 11 & 12 (UC 310).

**Pre-registration is required by January 3.** Contact the VPLS/CAO office at ext. 7529 for further information.

- CTE RoundTable Mike Zellers will present “Technology in the Classroom: Possibilities and Challenges” Tuesday January 25, 2005 at 3:00pm in the CTE Office in the Library
- The Future of Work: Spirituality in the Workplace Workshop January 28, 2005 8am-4pm Spitzer Conference Center
- James Toman, Division Director SSHS, published a book entitled Cleveland’s Towering Treasure: A Landmark Turns 75 The book is about the Terminal Tower and is Dr. Toman’s 14 book on Cleveland.
- Vincent Granito had a conference presentation accepted to the American Psychological Association’s Conference in Washington, DC next summer. The Title is “Giving Psychology Away: The Community College Model”
- Lou Suarez has a book coming out called Ask by Mid-List Press in Minneapolis. The book is the winner of the Mid-List Press First Series Award for Poetry. Previous books of poetry are Losses of Moment (Kent State University Press) and The Grape Painter (Frost Heaves Press).
- Mike Zellers has an article entitled “Electronic Portfolios and Metacognitions: A Phenomenological Examination of the Implementation of E-Portfolios from the Instructors’ Perspective” that will be published in the International Journal of Instructional Media, 34 (4). The article focuses on a project implemented here at LCCC utilizing electronic portfolios as a tool for student reflection/metacognition.

**Center for Teaching Excellence Executive Committee  
2004-2005**

| Office                                  | Member                     |
|---|----------------------------|
| Chair                                   | Dorinda Smith              |
| Vice Chair                              | Dorothy Johnson            |
| Public Relations                        | Sue Lieken                 |
| CTE Acquisitions/Annotated Bibliography | Chris Sheetz               |
| Web Liaison                             | Chris Sheetz, Shel McMahon |
| Assessment Liaison                      |                            |
| Facilities/Food Liaison                 | Valerie McGowan-Doyle      |
| Conferences                             | Greg Rivera                |
| Innovative Projects                     | Marilyn Valentino          |
| Roundtable Programs                     | Vince Granito              |
| Newsletter                              | Vince Granito              |
| A place for you                         |                            |
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# Community Colleges in the United States

