Call to participate in:

Using *Five Gears for Activating Learning* at CSUN

*A Faculty Learning Community*

Academic Year 2014-2015

*Sponsors:* The CSUN Teaching Learning Group, Office of the Provost, and the Michael D. Eisner College of Education

**Who can apply?** All faculty, full-time and part-time, lecturers and tenure track

**FLC defined:** A faculty learning community (FLC) is a cross-disciplinary faculty group of six to twelve (6-12) members who engage in an active, collaborative, yearlong program with a focus on enhancing teaching and learning. The focus for this FLC will be *Five Gears for Activating Learning at CSUN.*

Each participant in CSUN’s *Five Gears FLC* will select a target course in which to try out the *Five Gears*, assess student learning, prepare a course mini-portfolio, engage in ten (10) seminar meetings, and present results to the FLC and campus, as appropriate. In order for you to determine if this project is of interest to you, please see the following website: [http://www.csun.edu/cielo/teaching-learning-group.html](http://www.csun.edu/cielo/teaching-learning-group.html).

**Purpose of this FLC:**

1. **Apply *Five Gears for Activating Learning* in your teaching decision-making.** This includes your course and class design elements, as well as your spontaneous responses to emergent classroom challenges and obstacles to your students’ learning.

2. **Document the effects of applying *Five Gears* in one of your classes (spring semester).** This assessment should focus on how to harness the power of *Five Gears* in ways that other CSUN faculty can implement.

3. **[Optional] Become a spokesperson for implementing *Five Gears* among faculty within your department, college, and/or campuswide.**

**FLC facilitator:**

- Cynthia Desrochers, Education; former Director, CSU Institute for Teaching & Learning

**Campus support:**

- Matthew d’Alessio, Geology; Pedagogy Enhanced with Technology Group
- Rashawn Green, Director, Learning Resource Center
- Sharon Klein, English/Linguistics; Director, Writing and Reading Across Disciplines
- Daisy Lemus, Communication Studies; Director, Faculty Development
- Mike Rivas, Education; Secondary Education Department Chair
- Cheryl Spector, English; Director, Academic First Year Experiences
- Deone Zell, Management; Senior Director, Academic Technology

**FLC meeting dates:** Thursdays 11:00 a.m.-1:00 p.m. (bring your lunch)

**Fall Semester**
- September 11 and 18, 2014
- October 9 and 23, 2014
- November 13, 2014

**Spring Semester**
- January 29, 2015
- February 12 and 26, 2015
- March 19, 2015
- April 23, 2015 [share mini-portfolio and assessment data to date]

**Timeline and tasks:**
A seminar can be defined as a group of advanced learners, each doing original research and all exchanging results through reports and discussions. Within this definition there is ample leeway for personal goals and modifications of the goals proposed below.

**Fall Semester**
- Establish community
- Identify your present use of *Five Gears* in your teaching
- Begin to explicitly use *Five Gears* this fall semester as appropriate
- Develop expertise in applying *Five Gears for Activating Learning*
- Design modifications to your target course to apply *Five Gears* in spring, considering:
  - Learning outcomes
  - Learning activities
  - Technology
  - Formative and summative assessments
  - Teaching-learning strategies and techniques
  - Classroom examples, metaphors, and stories
  - Emergent learning obstacles and challenges
- Develop ways to assess the effectiveness of applying *Five Gears* in your course
- Begin planning your mini-portfolio

**Spring Semester**
- Implement your *Five Gears* course redesign
- Collect assessment data
- Compile your course mini-portfolio
- Share mini-portfolio and assessment data [April 23, or as determined]
• [Optional] Film *Five Gears* use in your classroom for inclusion in the Five Gears Digital Story (see https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=na04bcWTcBE)
• [Optional] Share your results with faculty beyond the FLC

**Requirements:**
1. Seminar attendance and participation in established tasks
2. Collegial interactions and sharing with all FLC members
3. Mini-portfolio for target course, with assessment data

**Reassigned time to participate:**
Each FLC member will receive three (3) units of reassigned time for one semester in AY 2014-2015. Note: Your participation is required during both semesters, which includes the semester for which you do not request reassigned time.

**Application, due date, and submission location:**
Please see the next page for the application form. Applications are due no later than 12:00 noon on Monday, May 12, 2014, in CIELO to Kelly Kroeker (kelly.kroeker@csun.edu). CIELO is located on the 4th floor "rooftop" corridor of Sierra Hall. It is anticipated that notification will occur approximately Friday, May 23, 2014.

**Criteria for inclusion in this FLC:**
All applications will be reviewed by members of the Teaching Learning Group. Criteria for inclusion in this faculty learning community include a strong statement of interest and commitment to participating in this yearlong FLC. In the event that we receive more than six (6) applications of equally high quality, we will use random selection to determine inclusion.

**For additional information:**
Please contact Cynthia Desrochers at cdesrochers@csun.edu
Application

1. Your name __________________________ Department __________________________

2. Your email __________________________ Phone number____________________

3. Courses you are scheduled to teach next year

   Fall 2014:

   Spring 2015:

4. Which one semester do you prefer to have the 3-unit course reassigned time?
   
   ___ Fall 2014
   OR
   ___ Spring 2015

5. Please write a statement of strong interest and commitment to fully participating in the Five Gears faculty learning community. Your statement should not exceed 500 words, and it should be attached to this application.

6. Your signature _____________________________________________

   Your signature confirms your availability to meet for two (2) hours at all ten (10) of the FLC meeting times listed in this Call to Participate, barring an emergency.

7. Your department chair’s signature (this must be the chair of your Five Gears FLC target course)

   ____________________________________________________________

   The chair’s signature confirms that to the best of her/his knowledge, the applicant will be teaching the courses listed above, and that the requested reassigned time will not adversely impact the department.

8. Submission requirements:
   • Hand deliver one copy of your application (with statement attached) to Kelly Kroeker in CIELO (x6535, Sierra Hall, 4th floor “roof”) by 12:00 noon on Monday, May 12, 2014.
   • Email an electronic copy to Cynthia Desrochers at cdesrochers@csun.edu.
   • Keep a copy for yourself.