

New Instructor Workshop Fall 2008: Grant Task 1.7.4

Executive Summary

Delivered by multiple presenters and commended by participants, the New Instructor Workshop resulted in a generally positive initiation for new instructors based on their self-assessment of the workshop activities as well as their personal readiness to engage in instruction. As a group, instructors predominantly valued the activities where they were able to work in groups and actively participate.

The authors believe the findings support the following general conclusions:

Strengths of the Activity

- Prior to the workshop, participants indicated a need to become familiar with Learn@UW-Stout and the technology that UW-Stout utilizes. Responses to Day 2 and Day 3 assessments indicate that for the majority of participants, this need was met.
- The most helpful Day 2 components were using Learn@UW-Stout and using the Learn@UW-Stout components, and learning about the active learning environment.
- The most helpful Day 3 components were learning about challenges in DLE and other classroom management strategies.
- After both Day 2 and Day 3, 91% felt confident using Learn@UW-Stout.
- After the workshop, 91% comfortable teaching in UW-Stout's DLE, and had an average rating of 4.4 on a 5-point scale for being better prepared to teach in DLE.
- For Day 2, 62% rated the pace as *just* right; this increased to 96% for Day 3.
- After Day 2, 80% agreed that they had accomplished what they hoped for; this increased to 94% after Day 3.
- After the workshop, 88% felt *confident* or *very confident* in their readiness for teaching classes in the first week.

Opportunities to Improve the Activity

- 32% felt pace of Day 2 was too slow
- Participants felt they were not given enough time to work on their courses.
- Participants would like more hands-on time in general, and in particular working with Learn@UW-Stout.
- In general, participants were least engaged during lecture components.
- During Day 2, participants were least engaged during the library segment because there was not an active/hands-on component

Action Plan for Improvement

- Continue to incorporate small group work into the sessions.
- Build in time for hands-on work on applying modules to own classes.
- Continue to conduct follow-up sessions to build on skills learned in the workshop, provide needed resources and support, and encourage peer network/support formation.
- Include other campus instructors to share examples and expertise

Action Plan to Evaluate Impact/Sustainability of Intervention

- Track students to determine impact on student retention.
- Three follow up sessions with participants are planned for Semester 1, 2008-09.
- Director of the Nakatani Teaching and Learning Center provides topical issues for discussion on the Learn@UW-Stout discussion board.

Note: The New Instructor Workshop will be sustained beyond the Title III funding by the Nakatani Teaching and Learning Center.