

Report on the Centre for Innovation in Teaching and Learning at Northern Lights College

After a planning process lasting over a year, a statement of vision, mission and strategic goals was published in late 2008. A budget drafted for the 2009/10 year included a half-time coordinator and a little money for travel and communication. Although chosen for the position in May, 2009, I did not start until March 1, 2010, when those plans were revived from their dormant state. The CITL has formally started but there is much to do.

Initial Plans

- Set up an advisory group internal to the College with members who demonstrate excellence in different types of teaching and learning and commitment to enhancing it in the College.
- Integrate the Educational Technology unit into the CITL. Develop a more formal program on the use of instructional technology and D2L. Currently Ed Tech is one F/T faculty with some support through IT.
- With the support of HR, continue to present ISW's to new faculty and interested staff
- Again with the encouragement of HR, continue to support the participation of staff in VCC's PIDP
- Be proactive about finding out what is needed for faculty to increase the effectiveness of learning in the College, and then address those needs.
- Set up an interactive website for the Centre. The website should include T&L resources, a calendar of events, a blog and links to other T&L centres.
- Commence a Mentoring program, initially for Department Chairs and other interested persons in May 2010.
- Run a FDW in June, 2010. Develop a stronger facilitation team to promote classroom-based feedback processes
- Develop a two-week orientation program for new faculty to include ISW, opportunities to be mentored by experienced faculty, and a workshop on the first week of class.
- Work with the Librarians to find a physical home for the Centre within the future Learning Commons
- Work with the HR department to develop leadership across the College.
- Activate formal regional/provincial partnerships in teaching and learning excellence.

Key Principles

- The Centre should have a strong virtual presence due to the diverse nature of the College (campuses are scattered across almost one third of BC)
- The Centre works collaboratively with all staff in the College to enhance teaching and learning through development of a learning community.

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