

LEARN



Sign up to participate in a Teaching Circle

What's a Teaching Circle?

It's a small group (~5) of interdepartmental educators who meet throughout the academic year to discuss a topic related to teaching and learning at Gustavus (e.g., problem-based learning, facilitating discussion-based courses, active learning strategies for large classes, & fostering inclusive classrooms) or to provide formative feedback on targeted teaching behaviors. The main goals are to discuss pedagogy, learn from multidisciplinary peers about different strategies, develop a cohort of campus educators who are knowledgeable about a particular topic and continue development as teachers. Teaching Circles are self-facilitated and can meet as often as they find helpful, though we'd recommend at least 3 times per semester.

Can I participate?

Yes! Anyone with a teaching role can participate; all faculty, including adjunct and visiting, as well as staff educators such as those affiliated with the Diversity Center, Academic Support Center, or Community-Based Service & Learning.

What do I have to do?

Participants determine the meeting schedule, assist in developing agenda and circle goals, and contribute to session discussions and activities. Circles that choose to focus on specific teaching behaviors will also conduct classroom observations for each other, providing formative feedback. In addition, we ask that at the end of the academic year each Teaching Circle choose a way to share what you have learned so that other colleagues can learn from your expertise and experience. Your circle could lead a Teachers Talking session the following academic year, conduct a faculty development workshop, contribute a blog entry to the KCEL website, present a poster at a conference, or publish an article in a journal to mention just a few possibilities. Be creative and choose something that will benefit your circle and our community.

What's your role?

KCEL will collect circle proposals, form circles based on shared interests & goals, and put participants in touch with each other. Though not required, if you already have a few people you'd like to be in a circle with, you can let us know when you sign up on the online form listed below. The KCEL will also check in with each circle throughout the year and provide resources as needed. For example, circles could request funds for reading materials, site visits to peer institutions, guest speakers, or other items that could contribute to the development of group expertise. At the conclusion of the Teaching Circle, the KCEL will follow up with participants to learn how their new knowledge, as a result of participating in the circle, has impacted or transformed their teaching as well as their students' learning.

How do I sign up?

Simple. Fill out the short form available at [THIS LINK](#) and we'll get in touch after the first couple of weeks of classes with circle assignments.

Sponsored by the John S. Kendall Center for Engaged Learning & the Provost's Office. For more information or questions, please contact Dan Moos (dmoos@gustavus.edu) or Patty English (penglish@gustavus.edu), Excellence in Teaching Co-Faculty Associates in the John S. Kendall Center for Engaged Learning.

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