

Transforming Course Design

...in the CSU

March 2007

Course Transformation Examples in the CSU:

CSU East Bay: "Our goal is to redesign the lower division General Education curriculum for Information Literacy, offered as a required first year experience credit course, LIBY 1210 ... to fulfill the campus commitment to retention, we need to redesign the course... additional strain will result from our focus on recruiting first year students in our plan for growing enrollments"

CSU Northridge: "The goal of this project is to redesign two of the required courses—EED 577 and EED 560C--in the Multiple Subject (MS) Credential Program from the traditional face-to-face to a hybrid model to improve articulation and quality of instruction across multiple sections of the course offerings, to impact student learning outcomes, and to maximize use of current physical classroom space and resources."

Cal Poly Pomona: "The Designing Online Learning-Centered Environments program will assist faculty teams in redesigning high-enrollment and bottleneck courses for online or blended learning delivery in a manner that retains academic quality, efficient use of faculty time, and focus on learning-centeredness. Faculty teams will participate in a sustainable and scalable process by which the online and blended learning courses can be developed, implemented, evaluated, improved and reused."

Related Initiatives Outside the CSU

Three state systems - in [Arizona](#), [Maryland](#), and [Tennessee](#) - have begun work with the [Redesign Alliance](#) to strengthen collaborations within each state and to develop sustainable approaches to go beyond reliance on one-time investments. The *Transforming Course Design* initiative will liaise with these other state-wide programs to insure CSU campuses are able to apply emerging exemplary practices for Course Transformation.

Executive Vice-Chancellor Gary Reichard announced the launching of the *CSU Transforming Course Design* initiative on March 1, 2007. "Course Transformation is a process of comprehensive course redesign, to improve student learning while simultaneously addressing the issue of instructional costs. Examples of improved student learning include the reduction of unsuccessful course grades and improved retention. Examples of addressing instructional costs include reducing student and faculty time needed to achieve desired learning outcomes. The Course Transformation approach can address instructional challenges in high impact courses by maximizing student engagement, emphasizing active learning and using technology to enable high-quality in faculty and student interaction".

The focus of our *Transforming Course Design* initiative is to support campuses in their Course Transformation efforts, to optimize the impact of those efforts, and to insure that 'the whole is greater than the sum of the parts'. This includes applying scholarly knowledge and exemplary resources from research in teaching and learning, and an emphasis on appropriate assessment of student learning outcomes and sharing of exemplary practices. We will support collaboration and capability development across campuses, to move beyond the redesign of individual courses toward a *transformation of our course design processes*.

In support of these goals, on March 1 we issued a [Request for Proposals](#) with submissions by April 30. Provosts may submit a proposal for a campus project and *in addition* we will encourage joint projects across multiple campuses. In parallel, we have the following activities underway to support this initiative:

- ❖ enhancing of the Course Transformation resources on the CSU Academic Technology website;
- ❖ initiating a CSU community of practice to share exemplary processes for Course Transformation;
- ❖ promoting collaborations across CSU campuses;
- ❖ consulting with campuses, academic leaders and advisory groups on longer term plans; and
- ❖ building links with external programs and experts.

Website for the *Transforming Course Design* initiative: www.calstate.edu/ats/transforming_course_design

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