



## COMMUNITY COLLEGE OF PHILADELPHIA

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### **Call for Proposals**

*How Do We Know We Are Achieving The Dream?*

*Assessing Student Outcomes*

Fall 2008 Professional Development Week

August 25 – August 29, 2008

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As participants in the Achieving the Dream national initiative, we have pledged to improve persistence and success rates of our students, particularly those who face the most significant barriers to success. We have focused our work on two priorities: improving student outcomes through strengthened student support systems and increasing use of effective educational practices.

One such system of student support is the comprehensive orientation experience. For many students, persistence in the first semester is critical. Focusing our efforts in order to provide a helping hand to entering students can help to increase their persistence and success. The comprehensive orientation experience is designed to reach out to all new students, and everyone – staff, faculty and administrators – is needed to serve as a positive contact. Meaningful interaction with a person at the College is key for most students. Please watch for more information as to how you can be a part of our students' success through the comprehensive orientation activities during professional development week and beyond.

Last year, participation in professional development engendered exciting discussions, initiatives, and practices, making clear that effective educational practices are well underway at Community College of Philadelphia. Continuing last year's focus of looking inward and assessing strengths and opportunities of the College, the fall 2008 Professional Development Week will encourage greater understanding of assessing student outcomes.

On opening day, the Academic Master Plan Task Force on Assessment plans to unveil their proposed assessment model for the College, and several workshops built around assessment will be offered throughout the week. Our Assessment Task Force worked from the definition of assessment provided by Linda Suskie, known for her clear, straightforward and commonsense presentations on a wide variety of assessment topics.

Suskie states that assessment is the ongoing process of:

- establishing clear, measurable expected outcomes,
- ensuring that students have sufficient opportunities to achieve those outcomes,
- systematically gathering, analyzing, and interpreting evidence to determine how well the outcomes match our expectations, and
- using the resulting information to understand and improve our practices for greater student success.

*Gatekeeper ThinkTank* sessions will be held and will focus on solutions specific to student engagement in identified “gatekeeper courses,” and during the week we will also hear the progress and results of various initiatives, studies, and audits. The results of the Noel-Levitz Inventories for students, faculty, staff and administrators will be shared as well as an update on our Enrollment Management Plan, new student orientation, and early alert system. Finally, an array of Promising Practices workshops related to assessment will be offered on the following topics:

- Classroom-based assessments
- Discipline-based assessments
- Student portfolios – a way for teachers and students to keep track
- Assessing outcomes with technology
- Understanding the placement tests
- Exit exams – advantages and disadvantages
- Assessment of writing assignments
- Participation as an assessment measure?
- Active and collaborative learning strategies – effect on learning
- Measuring the effects of group projects on real world issues
- Assessing students in online classes
- Problem-based learning as an assessment tool
- Supervision strategies for high impact
- Other related promising practices

The Planning Group invites members of the College community interested in making presentations in these areas to submit proposals. Selection of proposals will be made by the Planning Group and presenters will be notified. As in the spring, you will have the opportunity to pre-register online and to download relevant material to help prepare for the sessions selected.

**To submit a proposal for a *promising practices* workshop, please follow these steps:**

1. Submit your proposal electronically to John Jones in the Office of Academic Affairs no later than May 22, 2008. We ask that you use the form provided at [http://www.ccp.edu/vpacaff/FL08PDW\\_Online\\_Proposal.htm](http://www.ccp.edu/vpacaff/FL08PDW_Online_Proposal.htm) and complete it fully.

Please contact John Jones in the Office of Academic Affairs by email at [jjones@ccp.edu](mailto:jjones@ccp.edu) or call x8008 if you have any questions.

2. Prepare a short list of questions or online readings that can be made available to attendees prior to your presentation. Submit to Theresa Grady ([tgrady@ccp.edu](mailto:tgrady@ccp.edu)), Susan Tobia ([stobia@ccp.edu](mailto:stobia@ccp.edu)), or Paula White ([pwhite@ccp.edu](mailto:pwhite@ccp.edu)) by June 19, 2008. These materials will be made available to interested faculty before your session, which should encourage an even richer discussion.
3. Submit a 250-500 word overview of your presentation and any supplementary resources (handouts, references...) that you will use in your presentation to Maddy Marcotte, editor of *Praktikos*, CCP's professional development online journal by September 17, 2008. This overview should highlight general concepts raised in your presentation, but it should also include practical information that, ideally, other faculty can utilize in their classroom practice.

In addition to the *Gatekeeper ThinkTanks* and *Promising Practices Workshops*, regularly scheduled sessions such as department meetings (Wednesday morning), sexual harassment training, advising and IT workshops, Federation meetings, student orientation, Department Head Institute and Governance process sessions will be offered. Adjunct faculty will have the opportunity to attend day and evening sessions on teaching and assessing learning in developmental reading and writing.

**Professional Development Planning Group:** Crystal Bacon, Lorraine Barber, Jon Brown, Cathy Collins, Ellie Cunningham, Theresa Grady (co-lead), Lisa Handler, Mardi Holliday, John Jones, Clark Loveridge, Maddy Marcotte, Marion McGorry, Geoff Schulz, Kristy Shuda, Matthew Shupp, Susan Tobia (co-lead), Paula White (co-lead), Carol Whitney