Mid-Career Faculty Learning Community AY 2015-16
Led by Elisa Grant-Vallone, Faculty Center Director

We do not learn from experience... we learn from reflecting on experience.

~John Dewey

Are you a mid-career faculty member who

...wants to connect with colleagues who are at a similar stage in their career?

...is looking for an opportunity to explore something new?

...wants to reflect on & re-energize your career?

This Mid-Career Faculty FLC (MC-FLC) is for you!

What is Mid-Career?

For faculty, mid career is defined as the "time between the end of the probationary years and the start of preparation for retirement." This can be a career that spans 20, 30, even 40 years at the same institution. What do faculty do to keep renewed and engaged? How do faculty set new goals and create new challenges for themselves? How do faculty keep up to date on changes to technology?
In their article on mid-career faculty, Baldwin, Dezure, Shaw, Morretto (2008) explain that mid career can be a time of reflection and a time to set new goals, "mid career faculty can reach a career plateau where professional goals are less clear, even while an array of attractive personal and professional options may be available."

Using various readings, activities, panels and discussions, mid career faculty will discuss the challenges and rewards of an academic career, set some new goals, and explore new project ideas. Unless you are actively preparing to retire in the next 2-3 years, you are invited to apply for this FLC!

You are best prepared to participate in this learning community if:

- You have had tenure for at least 3 years
- You are not planning to retire within the next 3 years
- You are interested in sharing your experience with colleagues at a similar career stage
- You want to explore topics related to teaching, research, service and leadership

Overview of FLC

As participants in this FLC, you will:

- Meet with your colleagues about once per month for the academic year- starting in September and ending in May; with a 1/2 day retreat in January. **Meetings will be on Fridays -exact dates and time to be determined by availability of participants.**
- Make a commitment to attend all of the meetings; it is vital to the success of this FLC that participants commit to attendance.
- Share and discuss your experiences with other faculty in the FLC, at the Teaching Expo or other FC event, and through a year-end summary for our website or newsletter.
- Make a commitment to work on one new project or idea throughout the year related to teaching, research, service or leadership (this could include exploring a new research area, trying a new teaching technique, or reflecting on your experiences as a new chair).

Who can apply?
Faculty from any discipline who are associate or full professors are invited to apply.

How will faculty be selected?

Faculty will be selected based on these criteria:
(1) Clearly articulated interest in this FLC’s goals
(2) Diverse representation within FLC (ideally we would like to include as many different disciplines as possible)
(3) Availability for the meeting times
Compensation

Faculty who complete the Mid-Career FLC will be awarded $500 for professional development or as a stipend. This will be distributed in the spring semester towards the end of the FLC activities (approx April 1, 2016).

TO APPLY:

Fill out the application at the following link:

In your application of approximately (300-500 words) please include:

- Overall reason for interest
- Any ideas for a new project or idea you might like to explore during the year

For Priority Consideration: Applications are due on May 21st; however, in order to ensure diversity of disciplines and ranks in the Faculty Learning Community membership, applications will be accepted on a rolling basis until September 1st.