**FACULTY INNOVATORS: An Introduction**

[studio.eku.edu/facultyinnovators](http://studio.eku.edu/facultyinnovators)

**WHO**: Faculty Innovators are a cadre of faculty members selected in consultation with deans and chairs who have been trained in the best practices in teaching & learning, high-impact classroom techniques, and up-to-date technologies. They have a strong desire to share that expertise with other faculty and with students.

**WHY**: The 2020 Vision Strategic Plan emphasizes high-impact learning practices and strategies as the key to improving learning outcomes and graduating students who have the intellectual skills to succeed personally and professionally in a rapidly changing, diverse environment. The Faculty Innovator program, which will provide support directly to both faculty members and students, promotes the following Strategic Initiatives (SIs).

* SI 1.1.1 states, “Enhance professional development opportunities through a focus on developing skills and engaging students through high-impact learning strategies, including metacognition skills, teaching techniques, curriculum design, and providing customer-focused service to all.”
* SI 1.1.2 stresses “innovative teaching.”
* SI 1.2.1 states, “Embed and support high-impact teaching strategies and best practices for student engagement to promote learning and increase retention.”
* SI 1.2.2 requires a focus on involving students in decision-making, research, and creative activities with faculty, scholarship, service learning, international education, co-op, and internships.
* SI 1.2.4 emphasizes the need to “Increase the quality and capacity of pedagogical and technological support.”

**WHEN**: Chosen in spring 2015 and trained in the summer, this cadre will be available to the campus in AY 2015-6.

**WHERE**: Serving as innovative teaching and learning liaisons, this cadre will be housed in the Noel Studio spaces. In addition, this cadre will travel to various colleges, departments, and classrooms desirous of their services, as well as offer workshops for students and faculty on innovative learning strategies, such as metacognition.

**WHAT**: Faculty Innovators will . . .

* Develop and utilize a new active-learning classroom in the Crabbe Library or Tech Commons (Powell) focused on faculty innovation in teaching and learning;
* Lead demonstrations and workshops on best practices in pedagogy and technology;
* Consult one-on-one with faculty;
* Observe faculty in the classroom;
* Share pedagogical concepts and lessons learned with members of the University community during Noel Studio/TLC workshops (Innovations in Teaching & Learning Series), New Faculty Orientation, First-Year Course Orientation, and Teaching Assistants Training;
* Facilitate Professional Learning Communities on important higher education concerns (e.g., Metacognition, Scholarship of Teaching & Learning, Cultural Competency);
* Collaborate with the QEP Development Team to develop independent learners by improving critical reading skills through the use of meta-cognitive strategies, both by offering faculty development support and working directly with students;
* Aid in the creation of the *Professional Development On Demand* online system;
* Consult with students on learning strategies;
* Offer workshops for students and faculty tailored to promoting innovative learning.

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