



Composition Institute for Teaching Excellence (CITE)



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Background

- Summer 2014 research project centered on developing writers and readers
- Research outcomes shared with Dean Barlowe
- Focus on grass-roots initiatives and evidence-based teaching strategies: teaching tools and assessment of these tools specific to UT

Assumptions

- Retention = critical
- Evidence = persuasive
- Gen Ed requirements linked to federal and state mandates
- Stronger program assessment gives faculty a voice about what works here, and why
- Bright, dedicated faculty are doing good work!
We need a mechanism for supporting and recording data related to these efforts

3 Key Ideas

1. Evidence-based teaching allows for active, not reactive, program design
2. Evidence-based teaching provides ongoing infusion of ideas, teaching strategies, activities, etc.
3. Evidence-based teaching supports documenting best practices, articulating current needs, and envisioning future initiatives



CITE Structure

- Permanent structure with flexible content: each year's theme based on input from Composition faculty/CITE participants
- 5 Faculty Fellows for 2016-2017 selected based on applications in Spring 2016; fellowship runs from Summer to Spring semester
- Majority of time commitment occurs during summer, allowing faculty to research ideas and participate in a 2-3 day workshop with guest speaker in early August
- Participation follow up required for subsequent fall and spring semesters: faculty colloquia, outcome meetings and assessment of initiatives. CITE fellows also help determine the theme for the following year's Institute
- New theme/call for applications each spring

CITE Goals

1. Faculty toolkit: best practices for UT
2. Formal assessment of best practices: what makes a difference? Why?
3. Summer funding for interested faculty



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