Innovation in College Teaching: 
Using Educational Technology and Faculty Learning Communities 
To Enhance Learning in the Liberal Arts Core 

General Overview 

The University of Northern Iowa has been awarded a grant from the Roy J. Carver Charitable Trust to enhance learning in the Liberal Arts Core. The grant supports a series of summer institutes and follow-up activities for faculty during the next three years. The goals of the project are to: expand collaborative teaching and active learning, increase the use of innovative instructional strategies and educational technology, and create ongoing faculty communication to support high quality teaching in the Core. 

Institutes for Summer, 2004 include: 

• Innovative Instructional Strategies and Educational Technology 

   Coordinator: Phyllis Baker, Associate Dean, CSBS 
   Institute Leaders: Keith Crew, Professor of Sociology and Head, Sociology, Anthropology and Criminology; Marilyn Drury, Director, ITS Educational Technology 

   This institute will feature the MicroCase/ShowCase software. MicroCase is a user-friendly statistical package that comes with an impressive archive of real data sets appropriate for virtually all social and behavioral sciences. ShowCase is an accompanying system that produces exceptional graphics for classroom presentation. Developing proficiency with MicroCase/Showcase can help get students more actively involved with real and interesting data related to topics in their Liberal Arts Core course. The institute will also feature WebCT, PowerPoint, scanning and a variety of other educational technologies as requested by participants. Faculty, whether beginner or experienced with the use of technology, will have an opportunity to customize institute content and emphasis to fit their disciplinary and teaching interests. Technology support will be available to facilitate sharing best practices and teaching strategies on an ongoing basis. This institute is particularly appropriate for faculty who teach or will teach in Social Science, Category IV of the Liberal Arts Core during the 2004-05 academic year and who wish to be active participants in a faculty learning community during the 2004-05 academic year. 

   DATES: May 12 – May 21; 9:00 AM – Noon, 1:00 PM – 3:00 PM daily 

• Integrating Disciplines in the Liberal Arts Core 

   Coordinator: Jill Trainer, Associate Dean, CNS 
   Institute Leaders: Jeffrey Weld, Associate Professor of Biology; Marilyn Drury, Director, ITS Educational Technology 

   Participants in this institute will explore the pedagogy of interdisciplinary teaching through review of literature and discussion. In addition, the institute will help faculty form collaborations to incorporate or strengthen the interdisciplinary component of their courses. For interested participants, part of the institute will focus on the use of scenario analysis in the classroom to explore environmental issues. Scenario analysis is a means to predict multiple outcomes of complex environmental situations, determine the implications of each potential outcome, and determine effective future strategies. It requires an interdisciplinary approach in order to fully
appreciate the wide-ranging impacts of environmental situations on the natural world and society. The institute will also feature use of WebCT, electronic portfolios, and a variety of other educational technologies as requested by participants. Technology support will be available to facilitate sharing best practices and teaching strategies on an ongoing basis. This institute is designed for instructors of Liberal Arts courses that are currently or potentially interdisciplinary in nature. This institute is particularly appropriate for faculty who teach or will teach Capstone, Category IIIC of the Liberal Arts Core during the 2004-05 academic year. Emphasis will be placed on formation of and active participation in faculty learning communities during the 2004-05 academic year.

DATES:  May 17-21 and May 24-28; 8:30 AM – 12:30 PM

Faculty participants are designated as 2004-05 Carver Fellows and will receive:

- A $1,200 Stipend
- $400 individual budget for 2004-05 to support instructional activities (supplies, travel, hardware, software, etc.)
- Membership in an ongoing faculty learning community that will provide support for teaching innovation and excellence
- Ongoing individual Educational Technology support services
- Services of a student technology assistant for 2004-05 to support instructional activities
- Eligibility for additional recognition and funding.

- Twenty faculty from nine academic departments have been accepted for “Integrating Disciplines in the Liberal Arts Core”.

- Eighteen faculty from seven academic departments have been accepted for “Innovative Instructional Strategies and Educational Technology”.

**Dr. Edward Amend**, faculty emeritus and former Head of UNI’s Department of Philosophy and Religion is serving as evaluator for the project.

Members of this year’s Carver Institutes Planning Team include:

- Phyllis Baker, Associate Dean, CSBS
- Keith Crew, Professor of Sociology and Head, Sociology, Anthropology and Criminology
- Jill Trainer, Associate Dean, CNS
- Jeffrey Weld, Associate Professor of Biology
- Marilyn Drury, Director, ITS Educational Technology
- Edward Amend, Professor Emeritus, Philosophy and Religion
- Susan Koch, Associate Provost