

EDC Grant Midterm Report 2015

Date: December 14, 2015

Title of Project: A Framework and Comprehensive Resource for Building the Capacity of Educational Developers

Principal Investigator: Natasha Patrino Hannon, Manager, Educational Development, Centre for Academic Excellence, Niagara College

Co-investigators: Louise Chatterton-Luchuk, Associate Director, Centre for Contemporary Teaching & Learning, St. Lawrence College

Overview of the project:

Within the Ontario Community College system, collaboration typically happens within regions. Therefore, staff at Niagara College (Western Region) and St. Lawrence College (Eastern Region) do not have the opportunity to network and collaborate despite the fact that their colleges are of similar size and their ED units similarly structured. At the EDC conference in Winnipeg (February 2015), Natasha Hannon and Louise Chatterton-Luchuk discovered the overlapping mandates of their newly established Centres. Upon returning to their home colleges, they scheduled monthly meetings to share resources and insights. This grant proposal extends the connection established between them in order to build the professional capacity of their ED staff.

Together, Hannon and Luchuk propose the establishment of a formal, cross-Centre mentorship network between the staff of two ED units at Ontario Community Colleges. Through this process, they will develop a virtual 'handbook' to support inter-institutional, network-based mentorship among EDs. The resulting community-building activities, meeting schedules and formats, guiding questions, reflection templates, and other tools will be collated, organized into a searchable resource and shared widely with the ED community.

The intended outcomes of the Networked Mentorship project are four-fold: (1) to engage staff at two Ontario College Teaching Centres in a focused, inter-institutional mentorship network; (2) to apply Appreciative Inquiry to the design and evaluation of this project; (3) to expand the competencies of educational developers at NC and SLC; (4) to generate a body of resources which the ED community can use to initiate and sustain cross-institutional mentorship.

Progress toward stated goals of the project at the midterm point:

- Six staff from Niagara College's Centre for Academic Excellence and eight staff from St. Lawrence's Centre for Contemporary Teaching and Learning gathered together in Kingston on Sept 28th and 29th, 2015 to launch the Networked Mentorship initiative.
- A pre-meeting survey, agenda for the two-day gathering, appreciative interview template, gallery-walk activity and other resources were developed to support the launch of this

mentorship initiative. These materials will all be collated and organized in the proposed digital handbook.

- A detailed spreadsheet organized by theme (i.e. Academic Quality, Research, Resource Development, Strategic Planning, etc.) was created to help the participants identify peers with particular expertise or specific professional interests. This spreadsheet has helped to identify avenues for potential collaboration between the two Centres.
- The staff at the CAE and CCTL continue to meet virtually once a month for informal, facilitated conversations about a specific topic of interest. The dates and topics for each of the meetings is listed below:

28-Oct	Virtual Sessions: Confirm topics and facilitators for 15/16
11-Dec	Faculty Resource Development – Strategy, Deployment & Dissemination
27-Jan	Taking Faculty Development Opportunities Online
24-Feb	Assessment Mapping
23-Mar	Developing a Roadmap for Blackboard Learning among Faculty
27-Apr	Developing PD Opportunities for Faculty/Building Buy-In
25-May	Faculty-driven learning technology initiatives beyond the LMS

Barriers/challenges encountered and plans for problem-solving:

Louise Chatterton-Luchuk has accepted a new position as Associate Dean, School of Community Services at St. Lawrence College beginning Jan 4, 2016. Interim plans have been established for Andre Leger, Manager of Hybrid and Online Course Design at St. Lawrence College, to become the project liaison until the role of Associate Director of the CCTL is filled. This may lead to some minor delays, but we anticipate that the monthly virtual meetings and final face-to-face meeting of the two groups at Niagara College will proceed as planned.

Conference Presentations and/or publications based on the project, to date or planned

We hope to complete the digital Educational Developers Inter-Institutional Mentorship Handbook by the end of June, 2016. The handbook will include community-building activities, meeting schedules and formats, guiding questions, reflection templates, and other tools. This document may be delayed pending the search for a new Associate Director of the CCTL. We will keep the EDC grant coordinator informed with regard to any anticipated changes in the proposed timeline for completion.

We will prepare an abstract for the EDC 2017 conference.