

**CENTER FOR TEACHING EXCELLENCE
ACTIVITY SUMMARY 2003-2004**

EVENTS

<i>Event and circles</i> sponsored (or cosponsored) by Center (Includes 2 Faculty Assembly Days and New Faculty Orientation)	27
<i>Distinct units of participation</i> , non-circle events	434
Mean number of participants per event (not including FAD)	9.75
03/04 Circles (supported by Hewlett)	7
<i>Circles to date</i>	12
Consultation	10
Committees, Committee Consultation and Task Force(s)	7

MISSION OF THE CENTER

- Create and support open and collegial discussion about teaching and learning
- Provide resources for improvements in teaching and learning through consultation and funding
- Create mechanism to publicly recognize and celebrate teaching excellence

Key themes from feedback to date:

- faculty enjoy the discussion based approach
- significant proportion of those who participate have made changes in teaching
- many report thinking about student learning differently
- *nearly all perceive that institution does not value teaching*

Feedback from faculty in circles: If we want the conversations to continue and contribute to the ongoing welfare of faculty we need to ensure that:

- Funding opportunities are maintained
- Faculty get to tell their stories of what they did/recognize in participation
- The institution needs to provide support for the reforms that emerge
- Ensure that participation is not mandated

TASKS FOR THE YEAR AHEAD: From the Teaching Excellence Task Force Report

As a committee, we offer two key recommendations:

- I. *Strengthen CTE in ways that will allow for both the promotion of teaching excellence and also for its celebration at all levels of the College.* To do this will involve at least some or all of the following:
 - a. Establish a **fund** for teaching innovation grants administered by the Center for Teaching Excellence (e.g., transfer funds from VPAA) as part of the ongoing resource offered by the Center.
 - b. Establish and sponsor a **teaching academy** whose job it will be to explore issues surrounding the use of teaching portfolios both for development purposes and for promotion and tenure.
 - c. Establish a regular **publication** (e.g., the Teaching Scholar) the purpose of which would be to make public, recognize, and share a sample of the rich details that surround the practice of teaching excellence at Nazareth College.
 - d. Clarify the **role of the office of the Center for Teaching Excellence** on issues of teaching excellence.