



CRLT North: Services for New Instructors

A presentation for *New Lecturers Orientation*
October 2, 2007

Cynthia J. Finelli, Ph.D.
Director of CRLT North

cfinelli@umich.edu



Introductions

- Who am I?
- Who are you?
 - What are you most excited about in regards to teaching?
 - What are your concerns about teaching?

cfinelli@umich.edu

October 2, 2007

University of Michigan
CENTER FOR
RESEARCH
ON LEARNING
AND TEACHING
CRLT
NORTH

CRLT North



cfinelli@umich.edu October 2, 2007

University of Michigan
CENTER FOR
RESEARCH
ON LEARNING
AND TEACHING
CRLT
NORTH

Services and Resources

- Workshops and seminars
- Individual consultations about teaching (i.e., active learning, effective teamwork, teaching in large classes, developing critical thinking skills in students, team teaching)
- Classroom interventions (midterm student feedback sessions or classroom observations)
- Assistance with proposals and educational research projects
- CRLT grants competitions
- Engineering GSI Mentor program and other GSI training

cfinelli@umich.edu October 2, 2007



Fall 2007 Workshops and Seminars

- *Research and Scholarship in Engineering Education*
 - *Poster Session:* Oct 23, 11:30–1:30 pm. Atrium of Duderstadt Center
- *Student Teams in Engineering*
 - Nov 1, Noon–1:30 pm. Johnson Rooms, Lurie Engineering Center
- *Applying Real-World Multicultural Issues to Promote Problem Solving in STEM Courses*
 - Nov 8, 3:30–5:00 pm. 1013 Palmer Commons

cfinelli@umich.edu

October 2, 2007



Midterm Student Feedback (MSF)

- Confidential opportunity to get and act on student feedback at midterm
- Students voice opinions on issues they value, and instructors make (simple) changes to motivate students and enhance the way students learn
- Pre-MSF meeting: 20–30 minutes to discuss course goals
- Class period:
 - Consultant observes half of class period
 - Instructor leaves the room and confers with students about what is going well and what changes would improve their learning
- Post-MSF consultation: 30–45 minutes to discuss summary report of student responses and discuss strategies for change

cfinelli@umich.edu

October 2, 2007



MSF Samples

- In groups, review one of the two samples provided
 - Professor X (Associate Professor)
 - Professor Y (Assistant Professor)
- What would you do with this feedback?
- What questions would you still have from the feedback?

cfinelli@umich.edu

October 2, 2007



Evaluations of MSF

- Since Fall 2003, CRLT North has conducted 100+ MSFs for CoE faculty
- Was the CRLT consultant effective? 100% yes
- Did you feel the service was valuable? 100% yes
- If it was valuable, what made it so?
 - Enabled me to discuss my teaching with a consultant
 - Gave me specific strategies to improve my teaching/course
 - Gave me new insights into my teaching/my students
 - Students appreciated the process
 - Confirmed assumptions I had about my teaching/my students
 - Gave me more confidence in my teaching
- Would you recommend use of this service? 100% yes

cfinelli@umich.edu

October 2, 2007



Feedback about MSF

- *“I have used the service every term and have found it helpful each time. It reinforced most suspicions about my weaknesses and several times has brought out things that I would not have thought of on my own.”*

- *“I found this service to be an effective way to get more or less unrestrained feedback from students during the semester and to have an expert advise me on the teaching methods and possible improvements to the course.”*

- *“I think that it would be also quite valuable, especially for junior faculty, to meet with the CRLT staff members before the beginning of the semester (to discuss course plans and strategies) and after the end of the semester (to discuss course outcomes and possibilities of improvement).”*

cfinelli@umich.edu

October 2, 2007



Educational Research Projects

- Understanding students
 - Assessing the effect of active learning and web-based educational technology on student learning
 - Exploring ethical decision-making in engineering
 - Using an online instrument to assess student teams

- Diversity and retention in engineering
 - Introducing community-based learning, problems with real-world context, and research opportunities to improve student retention
 - Developing successful K-12 partnerships to increase the enrollment of women and under-represented minority students in engineering

- Faculty and the profession
 - Investigating the way different types of instructional consultations affect faculty teaching performance

cfinelli@umich.edu

October 2, 2007



CRLT Grants Competitions

- Lecturers' Professional Development Grant
 - Faculty with continuing appointments as Lecturers are eligible to apply for grants of up to \$2,000 each. These grants will be awarded for professional development activities including creative endeavors, research, scholarship, and teaching.
 - Proposals are due Thursday, January 24, 2007
 - More information at CRLT website:
<http://www.crlt.umich.edu/grants/lecturegrant.html>

cfinelli@umich.edu

October 2, 2007



Welcome to U-M!

- Best wishes for a successful, rewarding and exciting year.
- Please let me know if there is anything I (or one of my colleagues) can do.

Cindy Finelli
cfinelli@umich.edu
4117 Engineering Research Building I
764-0244



cfinelli@umich.edu

October 2, 2007