

Teaching Innovations Program

Overview

The AEA Committee on Economic Education (CEE) is sponsoring a Teaching Innovations Program (TIP) for college and university economics instructors. TIP seeks to improve undergraduate education in economics by offering instructors an opportunity to expand their teaching skills and participate in the scholarship of teaching and learning. TIP is funded by a five-year grant from the National Science Foundation.

TIP builds on a long history of work by CEE to promote effective teaching of economics including national workshop programs, teaching sessions at the ASSA meetings, support for regional workshops, and publication of *Teaching Undergraduate Economics: A Handbook for Instructors* by Walstad and Saunders.

TIP will benefit participants and their home institutions. It will help instructors improve their teaching skills and document their commitment to teaching. It will help colleges and universities raise the quality of economics instruction.

Program Objectives

By participating in TIP, instructors should expect to:

- Understand why and how interactive teaching and learning benefit students.
- Translate knowledge about student learning into effective teaching strategies.
- Develop a plan for using interactive learning in their classrooms.
- Adapt teaching strategies presented in the program for use in their own courses.
- Assess student outcomes that result from using interactive learning.
- Prepare effective interactive exercises for student learning.
- Work in teams to enhance the benefits of the program.
- Engage in an on-going dialogue on teaching and learning with participants and program personnel.
- Participate in the scholarship of teaching and learning by preparing and presenting papers related to pedagogy and practice developed during the program.

Who Should Apply

The program will help novice and experienced instructors introduce interactive teaching and learning into their courses. Preference will be given to applicants who:

- Describe a course in which they intend to implement interactive learning in the term following the workshop.
- Include a letter of support from their department chair indicating that their Department supports the efforts of the applicant and that the applicant is scheduled to teach the course they describe.
- Have not previously participated in a residential teaching workshop sponsored by CEE.
- Express an interest in participating in phases two and three of the program.

Minority Recruitment: TIP will actively recruit women and minority economists. Our budget includes funds to provide partial travel support for participants from U.S. DOE Accredited Post-Secondary Minority Institutions.

Workshop Costs: Program funds will pay for lodging on Friday and Saturday, meals except Saturday dinner, and for program materials. Participants pay a \$100.00 program fee and provide their own transportation.

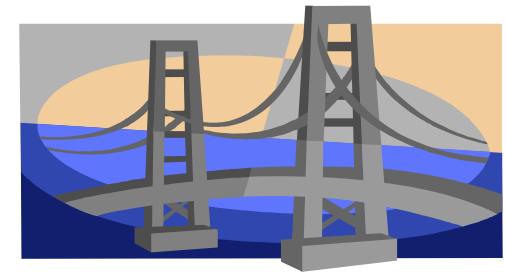
Application Process: To apply, applicants must:

1. Complete and submit the application form available at www.vanderbilt.edu/AEA/AEACEE/TIP.htm.
2. Send an electronic copy of the department chair support letter described above (separately or with application).
3. Pay a \$100 program fee. (Send a check payable to *the University of Nebraska-Lincoln* to William Walstad, Department of Economics, University of Nebraska, Lincoln, NE 68588-0402.) We treat applications as incomplete until we receive the check. We will refund the fee if we do not accept you or if you withdraw before March 1, 2008. If you withdraw after March 1, you forfeit the fee.

Acceptance: Applications for the Program will be accepted between September 3, 2007 and January 18, 2008. A rolling admissions procedure will be used. Some slots will be held open until after the 2008 ASSA Meetings.

Teaching Innovations Program Year Four–2008

Workshops for Economics Faculty on Interactive Teaching in Undergraduate Economics



Bridging the Gap between Current and Best Practice

2008 Workshop Locations

St. Anthony Hotel, San Antonio, Texas
May 30-June 1, 2008

Paul J. Rizzo Conference Center, Chapel Hill, North Carolina
June 6-8, 2008

Sponsored By

The Committee on Economic Education
Of the American Economic Association

Funded By

The National Science Foundation

TIP Web Site

www.vanderbilt.edu/AEA/AEACEE/TIP.htm

ASSA Meetings

Program staff will report on TIP at the 2008 ASSA Meetings in New Orleans. Please consult the conference schedule to confirm the time and place.

For More Information and to Complete an Application

Email tipecon@unlnotes.unl.edu or visit the TIP Web Site.

Teaching Innovations Program Particulars

Phase One is participation in a three-day workshop. At the workshop, participants are introduced to interactive teaching strategies and plan to implement them. Each workshop participant is invited to participate in phases two and three of the project. Although participation in phases two and three is not required, we give preference to applicants who indicate that they intend to participate in phases two and three.

Phase Two is participation in web-based instruction that occurs in the following academic year. Participants complete two modules that help them introduce interactive teaching strategies in a course they are teaching. They review instructional materials, prepare learning exercises for their courses, use their newly created materials in teaching, and complete an assessment designed to help them improve the new materials and their use. During phase two, participants communicate with teammates and program experts. Participants who attend the workshop and complete two follow-on modules receive from the Committee on Economic Education a Certificate of Achievement that they can use as tangible evidence of their dedication to teaching.

Phase Three is participation in the scholarship of teaching and learning. TIP organizes sessions at ASSA and regional association meetings devoted to papers on teaching prepared by program participants. TIP also creates opportunities for participants to share ideas and receive feedback about their papers and teaching strategies.

Acclaim for TIP

Participants at six earlier workshops rated them highly.

- Seventy-eight percent of participants rated the workshop a better use of their time than their next best alternative (and twenty percent said it was at least as good a use of their time).
- One participant said that the workshop “was one of the TOP experiences that I have had in a conference in my professional career...a super learning environment.”
- Another said “I believe my time spent in these last two days was the best time invested in my teaching career.”
- Ninety-two percent of participants indicated that as a result of the TIP workshop, they were highly likely to participate in phase two of the program.

Support from Economics Department Chairs

Department chairs believe that TIP and its Certificate of Achievement have high value.

- Sixty-eight percent said that receipt of the certificate would strengthen a candidate’s case for promotion and tenure.
- Eighty percent said they would recommend that young faculty participate in the workshop and follow through to earn a certificate of achievement.

Typical Workshop Schedule

Friday

1:00 – 1:45	Workshop Overview
1:45 – 2:30	Team Assignment
2:30 – 3:00	Break
3:00 – 4:15	Outcome Assessment
4:15 – 5:30	Experiments
5:30 – 6:30	Social Hour
6:30	Dinner

Saturday

8:00 – 8:30	Breakfast
8:30 – 9:00	Team Reports
9:00 – 10:15	Interpretive Questions and Discussion
10:15 – 10:45	Break
10:45 – 12:00	Cooperative Learning
12:00 – 1:00	Lunch
1:00 – 2:15	Case Studies ^S
	Interactive Learning in Large Classes ^R
2:15 – 2:45	Break
2:45 – 4:00	Teaching with Context Rich Problems

Sunday

8:00 – 8:30	Breakfast
8:30 – 9:30	Phase Two and Blackboard
9:30 – 10:15	Participant Teaching Ideas
10:15 – 10:45	Break
10:45 – 11:45	Team Assignment
11:45 – 12:00	Workshop Evaluation
12:00 – 1:00	Optional Lunch

R: Rizzo Workshop, June 6-8, 2008

S: St. Anthony Workshop, May 30-June 1, 2008.

Program Instructors

Patrick Conway is Bowman and Gordon Gray Professor of Economics at UNC-Chapel Hill. He was awarded the Pew Fellowship by Harvard’s Kennedy School and frequently presents seminars on case use in economics.

Tisha Emerson is Associate Professor of Economics at Baylor University. She has published articles on pedagogy that focus on the effectiveness of interactive learning strategies. She participated in a 2007 TIP Workshop.

Denise Hazlett is Professor of Economics at Whitman College in Walla Walla, Washington. She has received NSF funding to design classroom experiments and has received research and scholar Awards from Whitman College.

Gail Hoyt is Professor of Economics at the University of Kentucky. She is a specialist in using interactive learning techniques in large lecture settings and has published articles on pedagogy that relate to teaching large lectures.

Mark Maier is Professor of Economics at Glendale Community College in California. He is co-PI for two NSF grants on economics education and the author of *The Data Game: Controversies in Social Science Statistics*.

KimMarie McGoldrick is Professor of Economics at the University of Richmond. She is a specialist in co-operative learning and co-editor of *Putting the Invisible Hand to Work: Concepts and Models of Service Learning in Economics*

Robert Rebelein is Assistant Professor of Economics at Vassar College where he frequently teaches using classroom experiments and active learning strategies. He participated in a 2005 TIP Workshop.

Michael Salemi, Co-PI, is Bowman and Gordon Gray Professor of Economics at UNC-Chapel Hill. He is co-author of *Discussing Economics: A Classroom Guide to Preparing Discussion Questions and Leading Discussions*.

William Walstad, PI, is John T. and Mable M. Hay Professor of Economics at the University of Nebraska-Lincoln. He is past CEE chair and co-editor of *Teaching Undergraduate Economics: A Handbook for Instructors*.

Workshop Experience

All workshop staff have organized and presented at a wide variety of educational programs and conferences. Since 1990, Salemi and Walstad have directed Programs funded by the Lilly Foundation and the Calvin K. Kazanjian Economics Foundation, Inc.