CALL FOR APPLICATIONS

WRITING TO LEARN THE DISCIPLINE:
A FACULTY COHORT ON UPPER-DIVISION UNDERGRADUATE AND GRADUATE STUDENT WRITING

Jointly organized by CELTT and the UB Writing Program

**Deadline:** December 12, 2014

**Time period:** January 14, 2015 workshop + spring 2015 semester

**Audience:** All regular (including tenured, tenure-track, and lecture faculty) and adjunct faculty members teaching upper-division undergraduate and graduate courses are eligible to apply.

**INTRODUCTION**

Writing to Learn the Discipline: A Faculty Cohort on Upper-Division Undergraduate and Graduate Student Writing is a program designed to significantly enhance the capacity of UB faculty to (1) help improve upper-division undergraduate and graduate student writing and (2) use writing as a tool to deepen students’ disciplinary understanding, critical thinking, and efficacy as learners. The cohort will draw on the latest national research on writing instruction and assessment as well as insights from faculty colleagues in the cohort.

Participants will collaboratively explore cutting-edge practices in using writing as a tool to deepen learning. These practices include incorporating a variety of discipline-appropriate formats and styles of writing; sequencing assignments including informal, collaborative, research-based, and online writing activities; peer review; and electronic portfolio learning. The aim will be to increase the instances and quality of upper-division undergraduate and graduate student writing, immerse these students in the discourse and conventions of the discipline/field, build their autonomy as learners, and ease faculty time currently spent on grading/responding to writing.

In consultation with cohort members, participants will incorporate new, significant, and relevant writing opportunities into an upper-division undergraduate or graduate course, assess the impact of the changes made to their course, and produce a culminating written work documenting their approaches and findings at the conclusion of the cohort. The cohort will be led by Fiona Glade, Writing Program Director, and Nancy O’Neill, Director of CELTT.

Up to six faculty members will be selected to participate in this cohort.

**PROGRAM EXPECTATIONS**

Cohort participants will:
- Actively participate in a half-day pre-semester workshop on using writing as a tool for learning, on January 14, 2015.
- Complete background readings identified by the cohort facilitators and members.
- Analyze the types and intensity of writing experiences that currently exist in one upper-division undergraduate or graduate course slated for spring 2015 and then develop, implement, and assess the effectiveness of new, significant, and relevant writing opportunities in this course.
- Meet monthly to share progress, receive feedback, and test new strategies.
• Develop a culminating written work that can be shared with faculty and staff colleagues outside of the cohort.
• Participate in efforts to evaluate the cohort experience and contribute to program improvement.
• Actively shape a culture of teaching and learning excellence, educational quality, and student success at UB more generally.

**TIMELINE**

- **December 2014**: Cohort selection
- **January 14, 2015**: Project development workshop (1:00-4:30 pm)
- **January-May 2015**: Project implementation and assessment
- **Jan. 27, Feb. 24, March 21, and April 21**: Monthly meetings (11:00 am-12:00 pm)
- **May 2015**: Culminating written work and wrap-up

*NOTE: Cohort applicants must be available to attend the meetings detailed above.*

**ASSISTANCE AND SUPPORT**

In addition to the engagement and support of colleagues, cohort participants will receive a $750 stipend to be paid in two installments – $250 following the January workshop and $500 after the project wrap-up.

Cohort participants are expected to prepare for and actively participate in all program meetings. Absence from meetings for reasons other than hardship will result in stipend forfeiture. With prior notice, members may meet separately with the facilitators in lieu of one group meeting.

**SELECTION CRITERIA**

All regular faculty members (including tenured, tenure-track, and lecture faculty) who teach upper-division undergraduate and/or graduate courses are eligible to apply. Applicants do not need to have been involved in prior professional development related to teaching and learning in order to apply, but it is expected that their applications will reflect some level of critical thinking and self-reflection related to their course(s) and the use of writing to improve student learning across a variety of outcomes.

**TO APPLY**

Please complete the application below and attach your current C.V. Submit your application to Nancy O’Neill at noneill@ubalt.edu or via inter-office mail to LC202 by close of business on December 12, 2014. Questions may be directed to Nancy O’Neill at noneill@ubalt.edu or x4028.

**ABOUT CELTT**

At the core of the Center for Excellence in Learning, Teaching, and Technology’s mission is a commitment to faculty professional development and capacity building around engaged pedagogy, assessment, and student learning and achievement.

**ABOUT THE UB WRITING PROGRAM**

The University Writing Program promotes a campus—wide culture of writing, supporting excellence in writing to help students achieve success in academic, professional, and civic spheres. The UWP values writing as a tool for learning and promotes excellence in the teaching of writing by offering resources for faculty teaching writing across the disciplines.