



## MCC Teaching Circles

### **What are Teaching Circles?**

Small groups of faculty, 5-10 per group, who meet at least six times throughout the academic year to work together on a specific issue or concern in their teaching and their students' learning.

### **Why join a Teaching Circle?**

- To meet with other interested colleagues for an informal discussion of teaching
- To collaborate with other faculty on a specific topic or project that will have an impact on teaching
- To learn together and share ideas around a common theme or question in teaching
- To develop professionally as a teacher

### **Guidelines:**

- Teaching Circles will be formed at the beginning of the academic year and meet at least six times, starting in September.
- All teaching faculty may participate in a Teaching Circle: part-time, full-time and adjunct faculty.
- Groups may be from the same discipline or cross-disciplinary.
- Each Teaching Circle should have a specific focal topic, issue, concern, question, project, or problem that it will spend the year addressing.
- Each group will receive \$500 to support the group's activities. This money can be used for books or materials, duplication of articles, food for meetings, local travel, a guest speaker, or other expenses that further the project the group has undertaken.
- One person who is a full time faculty member must agree to facilitate the group. This person will announce meeting times, dates, and locations; manage the group's finances; make any necessary arrangements for the group's activities; submit attendance records; submit a one-page summary of the groups' activities and discussions at the end of the academic year and a final expense report.
- Teaching Circles may be invited to share the results of their projects and discussions with colleagues at MCC and are encouraged to consider developing programs, papers, or articles for dissemination beyond MCC.

### **Potential/Suggested Topics** (Members will develop purpose statement)

The scholarship of teaching Evaluating teaching  
Teaching portfolios Learning styles and teaching styles  
Diversity in the classroom Teaching/learning with technology  
Service learning as a pedagogical approach Course and syllabus design  
Enhancing students' critical thinking skills Teaching at a distance  
Ethical issues in teaching Using cases in teaching  
Grading and assessing students' learning Using writing in all disciplines  
Problem-based learning Classroom assessment techniques  
Active/collaborative learning  
Incivility in the classroom: dealing with difficult students  
Understanding and using new teaching methods in your discipline

*Any other teaching topic agreed upon by all members of the Teaching Circle*

### **Teaching Circles that met during 2003-04 School Year (Reports to be available)**

Service Learning Chemistry

For further information or to discuss a possible focus topic for your Teaching Circle, contact Sherry Bradish at 762-0420 or sbradish@mcc.edu.