

TO:	St. Lawrence University Faculty
FROM:	Teaching Fellows Institute for Oral Communication (Kim Mooney, Associate Dean for Faculty Affairs and Director of Center for Teaching & Learning; Val Lehr, Associate Professor of Government and And Traci Fordham-Hernandez, Assistant Professor of Speech and Theatre and Co-Coordinators, Oral Communication Institute)
RE:	Participation in the Oral Communication Institute, Year II

We invite you to participate in the second annual Teaching Fellows Institute for Oral Communication that will be offered as a result of a grant awarded to St. Lawrence by the William and Flora Hewlett Foundation. As indicated in the grant proposal, the institute's primary goal is to further our collective work on the development of critical thinking skills in students by helping them develop the speaking and listening skills necessary for productive and reflective discourse. The Teaching Fellows Institute will allow us to reflect on what our culture teaches students about oral communication, explore how discourse can help students to better understand their own perspectives and those of others, discuss and evaluate the oral communication assignments that we use currently, plan new strategies that will be implemented in a specific course, and devise methods for assessing the impact of these new strategies.

Specifically, we plan to offer the institute in January and throughout the spring semester during the 2002-2003 academic year. Participating faculty will choose at least one course to revise during the institute's working sessions with the intention of implementing the changes the next time the course is taught, ideally in the fall of 2004. The institute's faculty will meet as a group for three days in January (the dates for this year will be January 13-15) and four times during the spring semester. The January and spring meeting times will be used to read about oral communication in particular reflective discourse, and to work with the others in the group to plan new strategies and assignments, as well as ways of evaluating them. One follow-up meeting will be scheduled in late August and two meetings will be arranged during the fall of 2004. These meetings will allow us to assess our work and continue planning teaching strategies.

Each participating faculty member will be provided with all reading materials and a stipend of \$2,500.00. The participants become a working group that meets to share pedagogical goals and strategies in hope of improving our work individually and collectively. In other words, we anticipate that participants will become better communicators as a result of our collective work.

If you would like to see the full grant proposal, please go the Center for Teaching and Learning Website: [www.stlawu.edu/ctl/programs.htm](http://www.stlawu.edu/ctl/programs.htm). If you would like to participate starting in January 2003, please complete the attached form and return it to Lori Good, Center for Teaching and Learning, 62 Park Street, by Monday October 14<sup>th</sup>. Finally, if you would like to speak with someone about the grant or the institute's format, please call Kim Mooney (5981).