Program overview

The Digital Teaching Fellows program engages a small group of full-time faculty members at Rutgers University–Camden in an exploration of instructional technologies in the classroom to promote dynamic student learning. This year, twenty-five faculty members from FAS, SBC, Nursing, and Law collaborated and experimented with new classroom tech on May 24-25. The staff of Instructional Design & Technology (IDT) and the Teaching Matters & Assessment Center (TMAC) prepared and hosted the workshops, with valued assistance from OIT and RCIT. Collegiality prevailed, with faculty guest lecturers, including several previous DT Fellows, contributing valuable perspective as they told their stories of revamping courses with a digital twist. Special thanks to Sarah Allred from Psychology, Sara Becker from Teacher Prep, Stephen Danley from Public Policy, Travis DuBose from English, and Tim Knievel from Political Science.

Learning goals

By the end of the workshops, Fellows will be able to:

1. Demonstrate hands-on familiarity with a suite of new classroom tools and methods;
2. Propose plans to redesign at least one course with updated technology components to increase student interaction, engagement, and learning; and
3. Explain some of the challenges and successes encountered by faculty colleagues in pursuing technology-enriched teaching.

Outcomes

The post-workshop survey reveals enthusiastic appreciation for the workshop experience among our 2016 Fellows (see data in sidebar). Fellows used their iPads to create presentations, record screencasts, tweet to a hashtag, and collaborate on group projects. They also brainstormed on redesigning course components and engaged with previous Fellows on the realities of making big changes to existing courses.

Future directions

More learning to come! At the request of the Fellows, IDT will be offering more in-depth workshops this fall on: video tools, collaborative writing and review, and the flipped-classroom model. All Fellows will present on their redesigned courses during this academic year, beginning in late August. Deans, chairs, and faculty will be invited to attend these fun, collegial sessions.
"I think Twitter is really a great way to connect with students. I will definitely be trying to incorporate Twitter into my classes."

"I need to use polling and... I need to work on visual explanations of material rather than long emails. Kaltura here I come."

"Seeing that I can stream Keynote and annotate it in real time while moving around the classroom. I love this!!"

Rutgers University–Camden