



Office of Adjunct Faculty Support Programs

Science East 201 964-4050 adjunct@svsu.edu

Best Practice Awards

Do you have a unique and inspiring teaching method that you employ in your classroom? If so you can apply for the Fall 2008 Best Practice in the Classroom Award or the Fall 2008 Best Practice in the Use of Technology in the Classroom Award. The winners of these awards will each receive a \$100 award and be honored at the Winter Adjunct Faculty Orientation.

To apply for these awards you may go to the Resource page on VSpace and print out an

application or come into our office where we have some printed for you. It is important for adjunct faculty to be able to show the University community the excellent educational pedagogies we consistently employ in our courses so don't be shy...apply!

Submissions must be received in Science East 201 by 4pm on December 4, 2008.

Upcoming Workshops

During November the Office of Adjunct Faculty Support Programs and the Office of Academic Affairs are offering three workshops...

Course Design: from Course Description to Assessment
Saturday, November 8
9:00am-3:30pm
Emeriti Room in Curtiss Hall

Pedagogy and Technology
Thursday, November 13
6pm-7:30pm
Curtiss Hall 220

To register for these workshops go to www.svsu.edu/workshops and sign-in using your username and password.

Teaching Non-majors.
Tuesday, November 11
Noon-1pm
Emeriti Room in Curtiss Hall

Technology Training

VSpace Crash Course
Friday, November 11, 9-4, Z235

VSpace Introduction
Friday, November 7, 10-11:30, Z235
Tuesday, November 11, 10-11:30, Z235

Word 2007
Thursday, November 13, 1-2, C154

Mail Merge Using Word 2007
Monday, November 17, 1-2, C154

PowerPoint 2007 Level 1
Monday, November 3, 1-2, C154

www.svsu.edu/workshops

Muddied Thoughts Made Clear

Are your students constantly telling you they don't understand what you are talking about? If this is the case, there are a few assessment techniques you can use to remedy this. The first technique is called, *The Muddiest Point*. Toward the end of class ask the students to write out the one part of class they understood least...the point they were muddiest on. Collect these and review them. Start your next class period by going over those areas where your students were "muddiest." Perhaps a new day and a new explanation will clear up their misunderstanding. A second technique that works well is to have the students write a *One Minute Paper*. This type of assessment technique can be used to see if the students understood the most important points raised during the class period. Give the students 10-15 minutes to complete this assessment, collect and review these. This can also be used to begin the next class as a means of clarification. For more ways to assess student learning see Angelo and Cross (1993), *Classroom Assessment Techniques*. It is available in the library for check-out or in our office.

Coping with Millennials

Educators today dub this generation of students the Millennial Generation, those born between 1982 and 2002. This generation of students is characterized by their thorough knowledge of technology and their ability to multi-task its use. They tend toward a "consumerism" attitude in their education and they are accustomed to 24-7 conveniences. Perhaps, as an instructor, you are sometimes frustrated in trying to reach and teach this particular generation of students as "engagement is the key to academic motivation, persistence and degree completion" (p. 20). However, you need not be discouraged because there are some things you can do to reach out to this group. First, take a more active role in getting these students to manage their time. An hour spent surfing the web is an hour that could have been spent studying. Be persistent in getting the students to clarify their long range learning goals and work to make them own their education. These students love their peers and love interacting. If they are not instant messaging, they are text messaging or talking on their cell phones. This is an indication that they probably love doing group work. Therefore, you need to educate yourself on different collaborative techniques to employ in your courses. Also, learn to use more visualizations, simulations, and games as this is a good way for this generation to learn...the old "sage on the stage" method of teaching doesn't work well with these students. For more information on Millennials: <http://chronicle.com/free/v52/i07/07a03401.htm>.

McGlynn, Angela Proveitera. (September 24, 2007). "Millenials in College: How Do We Motivate Them?" *The Hispanic Outlook in Higher Education* 17, pp. 34-36.

