

## **Person A**

### **Positives / Changes (for the conference)**

The minimal lecture/maximum active learning is terrific, but the best thing about this conference is the chance to *use* what you've learned in the skits and Best Practices recital. Corporate training sessions costing much \$\$\$ often miss this practical application step.

The format/ framework is very polished from all the trial & error of previous GT seminars, and it shows in the organized approach to exploring what makes a great teacher. Again, the best part is gleaning so much good information from fellow participants, which in most cases are tried-and-true activities used by our own Valencia professors; methods which have achieved desired educational goals in the classroom.

The weakest activity for me was doing the circle-reflections twice, but that is mostly personal preference. It was obviously quite emotional for some participants, and I don't begrudge them their chance to express their feelings of gratitude. However, using the shell activity for the skit meant that only one person in that group really made any effort; the rest were participants in the circle like the rest of us. All the other groups seemed to share in the effort to demonstrate what they had learned during the course of the weekend. So the one change I recommend is to require everyone in the small groups to attempt to have equal participation.

The venue was great, and I wouldn't change anything about the facility, food, or how the weekend is run.

Overall, a big THANK YOU to all the facilitators - Samira, Mike, Dee, Helen, Elizabeth, Wendi, Brent, Mayra, and Celine. Your dedication to excellence in teaching provided a powerful example to the participants, and will serve as the inspiration for future versions of this program at Valencia.

## **Person B**

+/delta

+ Overall, this seminar was outstanding. The personal interaction time with other Valencia faculty members was invaluable.

delta -- The days were a bit too long and intense. Some extra downtime would have been appreciated. Also, if I had known earlier about this report, I could have taken better notes and provided more complete feedback.

## **Person C**

Longer time

### **Person D**

#### **GOOD AND CHANGES I WOULD MAKE:**

I generally enjoyed the conference. It was the first one of this type that I had been to and I enjoyed the concept and I did learn about some new ideas of presenting information and beginning classes.

I enjoyed the creative factor of making important skills that “Great Teachers” utilize memorable! That type of activity is always fun and helps us to demonstrate that learning “takes on” many forms.

I did like the closing day activities. I do not think that we (as a group) understand the contributions that we make to others and the “good word” affirmed that we are valuable in our contributions.

Any changes I would make would be minimal. Food was good and time to eat was appropriate. The rooms were also well appointed.

The facilitator was excellent in demonstrating the characteristics of a Great Teacher.

### **Person F**

Positive changes

Continually seek out ways and means to continually reinforce the “Seven Principles of Good Practice.”

### **Person G**

**Feedback:** This was such a wonderfully organized and implemented program. I can’t think of any particular changes needed unless it might be to have more than 1 primary facilitator if possible just to provide some variety in presentation styles.

### **Person H**

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This was a very positive experience. Besides the wonderful ideas for improving instruction we gained from each other, the opportunities to get to know faculty members from throughout the college and renew acquaintances with people we do not often see made this retreat extraordinarily enjoyable and effective in the realm of faculty development.

## **Person I**

### **PLUSES AND CHANGES**

It is hard to fault the Seminar in any way. I believe Samira Chater and her team did an outstanding job at planning and executing the program. At times the activities ran longer than they had expected because they were not counting on the interest and enthusiasm they would generate. No one minded this at all.

The locale was beautiful, our rooms bordered on the lavish, spacious and elegantly decorated. The food ranged from adequate to very good. The cookies were to die for. At times I felt I would like to have had more large tables to engage in conversation with several individuals. On the other hand sitting at small tables with only one individual forced us to concentrate on only one person at a time.

The meeting room was adequate for the group. Not too big which made it more intimate. Break out rooms gave the seminar variety.

The facilitators kept the conversations loose, but on task. They not only facilitated the sessions, but participated as well.

I am hard pressed to come up with something I would change in the future. I think in the end we learned a great deal from each other, gained a healthy respect for our respective fields, and in the end we made new and interesting friends who share the same passion for teaching as ourselves.

## **Person J**

+/ $\Delta$ :

One of the greatest “Pluses” of the seminar was the opportunity to make friends with (Not Just Meet!) colleagues here at Valencia. When you go to conferences, you meet people and have conversations, but you rarely develop the kind of relationship where you would call them and ask for advice. I have already been in contact with 3 of the people whom I met for the first time at this seminar. I really like that.

One of the Deltas from the seminar had to do with one of the 7 principles, “Time on Task”. I understand this was a humanistic seminar designed to be more touchy-feely, but there should be a limit to the number of share circles. I couldn’t help but feel that if we had spent less time walking the beach, doing Tai Chi, and affirming each other we would have had more time for tasks like sharing great strategies that we could apply in our classrooms. (Please don’t misread this, I loved the seminar and learned a lot, I just would have liked the opportunity to learn more)

## **Person K**

Plus – I really learned a lot from my colleagues in other disciplines. I felt like they understood more of the challenges I face as a developmental educator. It is great to take time out to meet with a mentor and perhaps share some of the knowledge I have accumulated over the years. Deltas – I am looking forward to the day that we are able to have more of these sharing / retreat sessions. It is a shame that money isn't there to continue to support the need for faculty to discuss their trade away from the college.

## **Person L**

### **Things I will change as a result of the seminar:**

I have learned to smile more and greet students. We now greet students at the door and hold the doors for them as they enter the class with their huge wheeled backpacks. I take time to eat lunch with my coworkers versus at my desk while 'multitasking'. I realize that I will answer the same question several times as many do not get the simple instructions the first time. I will continue to learn new teaching techniques and integrate more technology into my lectures.

## **Person M**

+

- The time for informal interaction between ourselves
- The opportunities to share successes, challenges, and work together
- Well-organized
- Great setting
- Pertinent to what we do everyday
- Nice to meet colleagues you have never known before and learn from those not in your discipline
- Positive atmosphere
- Willing participation
- Times to laugh and have fun!
- Energizing and validating
- Flexible schedule

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- Only thing I can think of is that a couple of times it seemed like the breaks were a little long and maybe too frequent.

### **Person N**

A positive (+) of this seminar was the opportunity to engage in meaningful discussion with colleagues from other disciplines that I might not otherwise interact with at this level at the college. At times, I had difficulty following directions during the seminar. A change ( $\Delta$ ) that could be made in future seminars of this type is to supplement the auditory instruction with repetition and/or visual cues.

### **Person O**

Plus: Opportunity to share with colleagues, format fostered learning community, getting to “know” people at deeper level, inspired by others who share our passion for teaching. Meeting right before a semester begins so we have fresh ideas to implement.

Minus: Tables at meal times should be bigger (definitely no two-person table) to allow greater opportunity to share.

### **Person P**

The pluses of this conference were many! Some of the best were (1) providing opportunities to get to know our colleagues such that they are now friends. (2) good mix of philosophical and pedagogical ideas for future inspiration and use (3) selection of the Inn at Cocoa Beach was outstanding--they really made you feel both special and at home.

In terms of changes. . . (1) Given that teaching is becoming more and more technological and we are teaching more and more in online and hybrid formats. . . it might be interesting to include some sort of session on websites participants recommend for technology tools (e.g., such as what James demonstrated), pedagogical ideas, or for other online information. (2) Remind people to holepunch the copies they bring (3) provide some snacks that include fresh veggies or fruits.

### **Person Q**

+/ $\Delta$ : I like the online environment. I won't listen to “toxic drippers”

### **Person R**

**Plus/Delta:** The location was fantastic, it would have been nice to have food choices for dinner.

## **Person S**

### **Positive**

This was a wonderful opportunity for faculty from different disciplines and different campuses to get together.

I appreciated all of the sharing sessions. They were thought provoking and challenging. Sharing both a success and challenge provided balance.

I liked the idea of sharing books.

The venue was excellent.

### **Suggested changes**

GTS was designed by auditory learners for auditory learners. The only reason our seminar was such a success was due to the depth of experience of participants. This format would not be as successful for a group composed of newer faculty.

Since auditory learners are a minority of learners, the lack of structure is one of the reasons the GTS has not grown nationally as it should have. Participants should have a printed out schedule of events.

Guidelines for the final submission should also be given in written format.

I would have liked an opportunity for sharing books in a reading circle format.

The schedule should also include the purpose of each session. At times it felt like I was on a wilderness expedition and only the guide knew where we were going. Giving students the learning objectives before covering them is a basic pedagogical principle. Clearly, the creators of GTS were heavily invested in "organic" teaching. However, that path is messy and more often than not unsuccessful. If we are to put on another GTS, then the seminar and all sessions should be designed in a more purposeful and mindful fashion.