

A Newsletter Dedicated to Improved Student Learning

Welcome to the inaugural Better Teaching – Better Learning Newsletter. This newsletter is dedicated to helping faculty become more effective instructors while helping their students become more effective learners. If you have any suggestions for topics you would like to see included in the newsletter, please email your ideas to jhunter2@email.arizona.edu.

May, 2017

Please Provide Feedback



Throughout the Spring 2017 semester, six emails were sent to all instructional faculty as part of the [Learning to Learn Series](#). The series focuses on evidence-based teaching and learning strategies and provides resources that faculty can use to help their students become better learners. If you found the series beneficial or have suggestions about how we could more effectively communicate this important information, please complete the [Learning to Learn Series Feedback Form](#). Your input is very important to our efforts to improve the quality of teaching and learning at UA.

Classroom Renovations

A classroom committee with representatives from key units across campus was formed to evaluate the condition of centrally-scheduled classrooms and make recommendations regarding renovations. Fortunately, UA leadership has agreed to invest in improvements to existing rooms and transformation of selected rooms into Collaborative Learning Spaces. The top priority for the renovations are rooms that require the most work. In some cases, the renovations will be disruptive due to the mess it creates, the noise it generates and the impact on scheduling of courses. We appreciate your patience as we work to improve the environment in which our students learn.

Recruiting for the SAIL Program

The [Student Advocates for Improved Learning \(SAIL\) Program](#) teaches students about the science of learning and prepares them to hold sessions with small groups of their peers to teach them about the most effective study strategies. The program is an approved 100% Engagement Activity focused on leadership and professionalism. Do you have students that might be interested in joining the program? If so, please send their names and contact information to jhunter2@email.arizona.edu and we will send them an email indicating that you recommended them for the program. The students recommended last semester seemed quite flattered, even if they were unable to join the program. Research shows that small “touches” such as this can make a significant difference in student commitment and retention.



Collaborative Learning Mini-Course

The Office of Instruction and Assessment offers a wide-range of workshops, seminars and mini-courses to individuals who teach at the UA. The three-week Collaborative Learning mini-course will be offered on June 12-30, 2017. In this hybrid mini-course, participants will learn about, plan, and practice using evidence-based, active and collaborative learning strategies for teaching both undergraduate and graduate courses. The course includes online activities and three, two-hour in-person meetings, one meeting scheduled during each of the three weeks of the course. To learn more and register, please visit [Collaborative Learning Mini-Course](#).

RCS Open Scheduling for Spring 2018

The [Room and Course Scheduling \(RCS\) Open Scheduling](#) period for Spring 2018 began on April 26th and will continue through June 18th. It is important to submit requests during this period to ensure that your requirements for classrooms can be taken into consideration as the automated scheduling process begins. Beginning Fall 2017, we will have twenty Collaborative Learning Spaces across campus. These rooms are specially designed for courses that include collaborative active learning strategies known to improve student learning. Please visit [Collaborative Learning Spaces](#) to learn more about these rooms and opportunities to teach in them.