# Faculty Fellows Program for K-20 Educators:  Information and FAQ's

## What is the Community Center for Teaching Excellence (CCTE)?

CCTE is a grant-funded program that works collaboratively to strengthen and support teaching excellence and student academic success across the K-20 continuum in greater Rochester, NY. Based at Monroe Community College (MCC), CCTE is guided by a Professional Learning Community of educational leaders from Rochester City Schools, Rush-Henrietta Schools, MCC, SUNY Brockport, SUNY Geneseo, and St. John Fisher College.

## What is the CCTE Faculty Fellows Program for K-20 Educators?

The Faculty Fellows Program is a unique professional development program designed to engage a vibrant learning community of experienced educators who work together to focus energy and expertise on understanding, developing, and implementing teaching practices that enhance student engagement and academic success.

## What makes the Fellows Program unique?

The Fellows Program is unique because it is structured as a <u>professional learning community</u> (PLC) that crosses educational sectors, with participating educators from K-12 districts, MCC, and four-year institutions.  Cross-sector participation allows vertical teams to develop, learn together, and work collaboratively.  The unique nature of each Fellows group is shaped by the interests, passions, expertise, and inquiries of participants, allowing for a wide-range of possible innovative outcomes.

## How does the program impact teaching practices and student success?

Participating educators work together to design and implement new pedagogies or methods of instruction in their own classrooms during the semester immediately following the Fellows Program. They use <u>action research</u> to evaluate the utility and impact of the new instructional practice(s), and share the results of their work both formally and informally.

## How will the program be evaluated?

As a condition of grant funding, the Fellows Program is part of a comprehensive CCTE evaluation being conducted by the Center for Governmental Research (CGR) to understand the process and determine the outcomes of CCTE initiatives. The mixed-method evaluation includes:  focus groups, structured interviews, surveys, classroom visits, and review of materials generated via action research such as syllabi, journals, or electronic media (e.g. videos, blogs, podcasts, websites). Faculty Fellows, their students, program leaders, and the Facilitation PLC will participate in various aspects of program evaluation, and contribute their views of program impact on student success.

## What can Fellows expect to do in the program?

Fellows will engage with a broad range of perspectives on learning and teaching through reading, collegial discussion, individual and group reflection, interactive projects, peer coaching and consultation, classroom visits, and classroom-based activities.  Web-enhanced learning will optimize creativity and collaboration. Fellows will be trained in the use of action research, and may present, co-author papers, and contribute to our regional knowledge base of best practices.

## What is the program flow and time commitment involved?

*Phase One*→<u>PLC/Learn/Explore</u>:  In the initial semester, Fellows form a PLC, and (1) attend five 3.5 hour sessions, (2) spend time exploring via reading, online work, classroom visits, and (3) develop an instructional plan using high-impact pedagogies/practices and action research.
In Spring 2013 Fellows will be honored guests at the CCTE Regional Conference.
*Phase Two*→<u>Classroom Instruction/Action Research</u>:  The following semester, Fellows attend a Pre-Research Conference to present their instruction/action research plan which is implemented during regular class time with the support of CCTE Dialogue Facilitators.  Fellows (1) document research for the CCTE regional knowledge base, (2) meet monthly to share progress, (3) present research findings to Fellows PLCs and Facilitation PLC (semester-end).
*Phase Three*→ <u>Optional Continuation</u>:  Fellows may create an Alumni PLC, assist CCTE with new Fellows groups, or develop formal presentations/papers to share instructional practices and research findings at conferences or via publication.

## Is there a cost to participate?

There is no participation fee. Costs for materials, meals, and program activities are covered by grant funds. The program also covers costs for substitute teachers as needed for the luncheon session and classroom visits. Compensation of $2000 is provided for full participation (2 semesters); MCC faculty receive equivalent release time.  Fellows seeking professional development hours for certification will be awarded 15 hours at the end of the second semester.  Optional continuation projects will receive funds as appropriate.

## Who is eligible to participate in Spring 2013?

<u>S.T.E.M. Fellows</u>: Open to fulltime college faculty who teach <u>entry level</u> science, math, or technology courses, and middle or high school science, math or technology teachers.
<u>Liberal Arts Fellows</u>:  Open to middle or high school teachers and fulltime college faculty teaching <u>entry level liberal arts courses</u> in English, foreign languages, history, social sciences, or the arts.

## How do I apply to join the Fellows Program?

Applications can be found online at: [http://www.communitycenterforteachingexcellence.org/faculty-fellows-plc/](http://www.communitycenterforteachingexcellence.org/faculty-fellows-plc/)  or you may contact your Department Chair or school representative for application materials.  Additional questions may be directed to Ann Pennella, CCTE Program Director, at 292-3071or [apennella@monroecc.edu](mailto:apennella@monroecc.edu).

## What are the important dates for Spring 2013?

<u>Application Deadline</u>: 12/7/12  <u>Notification of Acceptance</u>:  Week of 1/14/13

<u>Spring 2013 meeting dates</u>:

- **All Fellows** Kick-Off Luncheon & Afternoon Session February 26, 2013
- **S.T.E.M. Fellows** meet <u>Wednesdays from 4-7:30</u> p.m. on: 3/13, 4/10, 4/24, 5/8
- **Liberal Arts Fellows** meet <u>Saturdays from 9 am-12:30</u> on: 3/9, 4/13, 4/27, 5/2