

ITHACA COLLEGE

# Partnership Plan for ITS and the Center for Faculty Excellence

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Susanne Morgan, Beth Rugg, Marilyn Dispensa, Mark Hine

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*ITS and the Center for Faculty Excellence (CFE) propose the formation of a strategic partnership to better facilitate supporting faculty development regarding the use of technology on campus. This document details the background, assumptions, objectives, goals, programming activities and implementation strategies for this partnership.*



## **Introduction**

Information Technology Services (ITS) and the Center for Faculty Excellence (CFE) propose the formation of a strategic partnership to better facilitate supporting faculty development regarding the use of technology on campus. The formation of this partnership is important because it will provide the Center for Faculty Excellence additional human and facility resources to support faculty development and it will help guide ITS instructional support staff priorities and efforts.

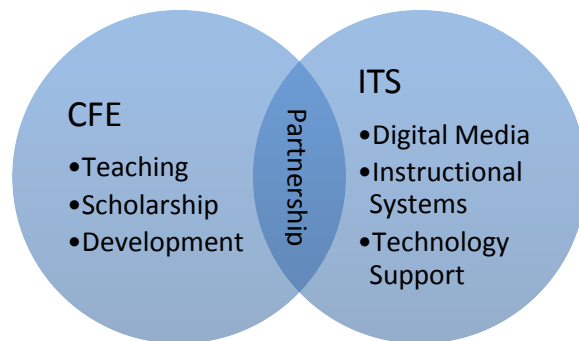
## **Background**

ITS and CFE both have rich backgrounds and mission statements that impact this partnership.

ITS currently has three full time staff members that support instructional technology: Marilyn Dispensa, the Instructional Technology Coordinator, Mark Hine, the Coordinator of Digital Media Services and Kathy Barbieri, User Support Specialist. ITS also manages a lab, the Center for Educational Technology (CET), designed to help faculty integrate computer-based learning technologies into the classroom. In 2010, CET will be relocated to Job Hall along with Digital Media Services, the Help Desk and User Support Services. In anticipation of this change, ITS is re-evaluating CET's mission. Also, in February 2009, ITS distributed an Instructional Technology survey to the campus community. It is hoped that the results of this survey will help inform and guide instructional support resource priorities and programming in the near future.

The Center for Faculty Excellence (CFE) is a virtual center consisting of a Web page and activities implemented by the half time faculty member (Susanne Morgan) who serves the Provost as Coordinator of Faculty Development Activities. The mission of the CFE is to support faculty as teachers, scholars, and community members, throughout their career at Ithaca College. Activities include workshops, consultations, mentoring, presentations, and coordination with other entities for faculty. The web page serves to support faculty through access to multiple faculty development resources. Following a report by consultant Susan Ambrose, in September 2008 Provost Kathleen Rountree assigned the coordinator to use the other half of her time to "to lead us through the process suggested in the report, beginning with a systematic needs assessment in the fall, culminating in the articulation and implementation of a faculty development model for Ithaca College in the 2010-2011 academic year, and with the possibility of incremental advances along the way." The Ambrose report pointed to a physical center staffed by professionals. Due to budget constraints the planning process will end at the end of 2008-2009 and the parameters of the recommendation will be more constrained. This proposal/partnership is an indirect result of that task and charge. This partnership is not the full embodiment of the faculty development model for Ithaca College.

It is hoped that the work done as a result of this partnership will have a greater impact than each organization could have had alone. Each organization will retain its individual identity but be better able to prioritize and guide programming efforts around the points of intersection.



### **Assumptions:**

There are certain assumptions that affect this partnership:

- ITS and CFE have individual area goals - this collaboration will not replace those goals but will support their achievement at the intersection points between faculty development and technology
- Currently, there is not a physical space for the faculty development program nor does there seem to be a plan for one in the near future
- ITS currently manages the CET lab space and will continue to do so in the future
- ITS recently completed an Instructional Support Survey – the results of this survey will inform and guide future programming efforts regarding technology support

### **Goals and Objectives of the Partnership**

The goals and objectives of this partnership will focus on the intersection points between CFE and ITS:

- Devise online environments to extend the face-to-face services of the CFE
- Recommend institutional strategies to support common goals
- Provide opportunities for faculty to engage in learning about using technology effectively in teaching, learning and research.
- Design programming for CET to best meet current and future faculty needs
- Explore current and emerging technologies such as those in the Horizon Report by through faculty partnership

### **Possible Programming Activities Resulting from this Partnership**

1. Supporting faculty teaching and scholarship:

- Share information about the theories and evaluation criteria surrounding the use of educational technology: laptops in classrooms, clickers, blogs, wikis etc
- Create virtual opportunities for collaboration and dialog around disciplines (social sciences, natural sciences), cohorts (new faculty, tenure track faculty, tenured faculty) or teaching strategies (use of social networking sites, listserves, tagged communities, discipline specific blogging groups etc)
- Create face-to-face opportunities for collaboration and dialog through brown bag luncheons, faculty-led dialogs, panels and forums
- Develop digital libraries, collections and repositories of instructional resources
- Contribute technical expertise for grant applications as needed
- Collaborate on process for recruiting and selecting technology projects in support of instruction and research

- Facilitate new faculty technology orientations
- Facilitate and possibly provide multi-media support for faculty consultations – this may include lecture capturing
- Collaborate with faculty on projects focused on the scholarship of teaching and learning

## 2. Supporting faculty use of technology:

- Define and develop faculty toolset to help faculty achieve goals. This toolset could involve the use of:
  - Blackboard
  - eInstruction personal response system
  - creating and distributing podcasts
  - discussion lists
  - online chat
  - WPM
  - wikis
  - blogs
  - virtual worlds
- Create a gallery of successful projects that would elaborate on teaching goal, technology use, what was done, outcome, student response
- Develop faculty communities around technology topics either in the form of listservs or through social networking
- Develop shared knowledge repository – i.e. collecting/archiving/creating searchable database for general information, opinions, ideas from listserv etc
- Host face-to-face and virtual workshops for software training
- Provide specialized software support by linking faculty subject matter experts together i.e. SPSS, GPS software etc
- Create opportunities for communities of interest to form around a teaching goal, strategy, or technology – with an emphasis on some of the possibilities created around new and emerging technologies. Make a list of possible “interests” (Blogging in the classroom). The members can help each other informally. Maintain an “opt in” list of people interested in a topic.
- Solicit faculty input and response in evaluating new technologies, software etc.

### **Shared Affiliations as a Result of this Collaboration:**

Recognizing the importance of professional affiliations and dialog beyond Ithaca College, this collaboration will capitalize on the current affiliation with NMC (New Media Consortium).

This collaboration may also choose to affiliate with the Teaching, Learning and Technology group (TLT). <http://www.tltgroup.org/>. This group is a not-for-profit that helps college and university educators take advantage of changing technology so they can improve teaching and learning.

### **Facility Use and Management (CET):**

CET is an existing facility that will support this partnership. Historically, the CET lab provided additional hardware and software options typically not available to faculty members in their offices.

These hardware and software capabilities include:

- Audio video capture, recording, editing and encoding
- Video/web conferencing

- A demo eclassroom set-up with the Pixie Pro controllers, PRS clicker software, and possibly a Symposium monitor
- Analog to digital conversion for VHS
- Flatbed and slide scanning
- Color printing

In Job Hall, the CET will be a collaborative space that also contains flexible furniture set-up, projection equipment and large monitors for presentation viewing. One-on-one consulting will also take place in this facility.

#### Facility Access:

- Faculty will have 24/7 ID access
- Students and staff can be given access if working with a faculty member on a project
- Faculty and ITS staff can use/reserve the audio/video editing space
- CFE will be encouraged to use space if space is needed
- Workshops, group and individual training, discussion forums may all take place in this space

#### **Evaluation Criteria for this Strategic Partnership**

The efforts of this strategic partnership will be evaluated by CFE and ITS on an annual basis. Some of the criteria to measure success may be:

- CET facility use statistics
- CET foot traffic statistics
- Programming statistics
- CFE technology related resource use statistics
- Virtual community use and engagement statistics
- Programming evaluation through focus groups, interviews, and/or surveys

#### **Implementation Plan**

The exercise of thinking through and documenting this strategic partnership has been beneficial for both the ITS staff and Susanne Morgan.

The 1<sup>st</sup> stage of this process was to agree on what the strategic partnership might look like, produce this document and share it with our respective leadership. Assuming the ITS leadership and the Provost like and agree with this direction, the 2<sup>nd</sup> phase of this process would include sharing this document with the faculty development committee and other members of the IC community (ITS Liaisons, ICTeach).

Finally, it is believed that the real importance of this document is the programming that comes out of this collaboration. If approved, ITS and Susanne Morgan would collaboratively work to develop some virtual resources and programming for the 2009-2010 academic year.