Office of Teaching Effectiveness and Innovation

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OTEI’s Missions

1. To keep Clemson on the cutting edge of teaching excellence and innovation.
2. To foster communication, understanding, and a sense of community between teachers and learners by helping instructors to view their teaching through their students’ perspective and to engage their students more actively in their learning.
3. To help instructors select and implement the most effective teaching methods from an ever-broadening repertoire of techniques and technologies.
4. To help ensure that teaching and learning are assessed by valid and reliable means that encourage and reward improvement.
5. To sustain a vision of teaching as an intellectual activity essential to the overall professional goals of Clemson faculty members and the mission of the University.

OTEI also offers services related to grants, research, scholarly writing, and publishing.

OTEI’s Services

Professional Development: Throughout the year OTEI sponsors many dozens of workshops and presentations on teaching, scholarship, leadership, and academic careers, such as course design and development, student-centered teaching, assessment, instructional technology, the evaluation of teaching, scholarly productivity, and grant proposal writing. These include live events, on-demand online seminars, and writing support groups, all announced by email. Deans, chairs, and directors may also request live workshops tailored to their instructors’ needs. For all scheduled OTEI events, go to http://www.clemson.edu/OTEI/services/workshops.html.

Consulting to Academic and Administrative Units: Colleges, schools, departments, programs, and committees may obtain information and advice on any teaching-related issue, including curriculum revision, student ratings, research-grounded ways to assess colleagues’ teaching effectiveness, and faculty and TA training needs. The OTEI director also consults on teaching-related grants and contracts.

Classroom Observations: Providing an objective expert’s point of view, the OTEI director will observe and take notes on your lecture style, discussion skills, questioning techniques, class rapport, use of technology, and other visible performance dimensions. She typically meets with you privately within a day or two.
**Class Interviews:** Learn how your students view your teaching strengths, weaknesses, and effectiveness during the semester, while you still have time to make adjustments and improvements and to explain your strategies to your students. A class interview solicits specific, useful assessments and recommendations for improvement more effectively than do end-of-semester student evaluations, and student anonymity is assured. The service takes the first or last 20 minutes of class time. Within a day or two, the OTEI Director meets privately with you to help interpret and utilize the results.

**Teaching with Laptops:** For research-based advice and ideas on teaching student-actively with laptops in your classroom, see Linda B. Nilson and Barbara E. Weaver’s edited volume, *Enhancing Learning with Laptops in the Classroom*, in the Jossey-Bass series, New Directions for Teaching and Learning (No. 101, Spring 2005), available free at [http://www3.interscience.wiley.com/cgi-bin/jissue/110433465](http://www3.interscience.wiley.com/cgi-bin/jissue/110433465).

**Teaching at Its Best:** OTEI makes available to the Clemson faculty the best-selling, comprehensive book, *Teaching at Its Best: A Research-Based Resource for College Instructors*, 3rd edition (Jossey-Bass, 2010). Written by OTEI’s Director, Dr. Linda B. Nilson, it summarizes, in an easy-to-read style and format, not only the most effective methods but also the scholarly research that provides evidence for their effectiveness.

**Professional Development Library:** OTEI maintains an extensive library of books, journals, newsletters, articles, and DVDs for browsing and borrowing. Subjects include classroom and online teaching, assessment, critical thinking, faculty development, grant proposal writing, academic careers, curriculum design, learning and cognition, student development, and the evaluation of teaching.

**Online Resources:** OTEI’s web site, [www.clemson.edu/OTEI](http://www.clemson.edu/OTEI), offers more information on its services, as well as access to *Teaching Tips*, *Teaching Excellence* essays, directions for subscribing cost-free to *The Teaching Professor* and *Tomorrow’s Professor* newsletters, and annotated links to web sites on assessment, e-Portfolios, instructional technology, learning and communication resources for students, research on teaching, campus support services, and both general and disciplinary teaching resources. Also available is the student handbook on productive group collaboration, *Successful Strategies for Teams* by Dr. Frances Kennedy with Dr. Linda B. Nilson.

**Recorded Webinars:** Go to [http://www.clemson.edu/OTEI/services/workshops.html](http://www.clemson.edu/OTEI/services/workshops.html) to access, at no cost, hundreds of recorded webinars on teaching (classroom and online) and career development produced Magna Publications, Starlink Training, and the National Center for Faculty Development and Diversity, plus podcasts on teaching online and materials for teaching science from the University of Colorado at Boulder.

**Private Teaching, Research, and Career Consultations:** Above all else, OTEI is a safe, confidential haven for you to come to discuss your courses and teaching, assessment, student relations, research on teaching, student ratings, preparation for faculty review, work and life balance, and other career matters. Information on upcoming teaching conferences and outside workshops is also available.