

## FACULTY INTEREST GROUPS

### **Background**

Having learning communities has been widely tested and shown to be a successful high impact teaching practice. They encourage integration across courses and involve students using critical thinking skills and big questions beyond the classroom.

A Faculty Interest Group (FIG) is a group of faculty within or across disciplines with a mutual interest in some subject applicable to teaching. The group agrees to meet regularly to share ideas for a predetermined length of time (generally one or two semesters). These groups are less formal than FLCs, but still engage faculty in regular efforts to share ideas about teaching that address their selected focus.

### **Accomplishments for 2020-21**

- We updated the TLED website to include an application which allows faculty to apply for FLC/FIG funds when available. Our goal to host a total of 6 FIG's with the support of the Faculty Center Advisory Group was exceeded.
- Worked with faculty member Herb Coleman to establish the [Empowered Google Learning FIG](#). The goal of this FIG is to share information about and the productive use of the various Google G-Suite products available to ACC employees. The group will provide support for those looking to utilize Google products to improve their work or teaching.
- Established the [Building Culturally Responsive Classrooms at ACC](#) with faculty member Kendall Dingee. The goal of this FIG is to inform participants about culturally responsive teaching, reflect on current practices, and produce consumable documents for the classroom.
- Kicked off the [Building Religious Literacy FIG](#) under the leadership of faculty members Amy Velchoff and Grant Potts. The goal of the FIG is to work through the [Norton Anthology of World Religions](#). The group started with Islam, and then will cover a different world religion each semester for 6 total consecutive semesters.
- Collaborated with Larry Stephens to start the [Teaching Ethics to Adult Learners FIG](#). The objective of the group is to discuss the current state of our ethics courses and talk about techniques that work and those that don't. Additionally, the group discussed what should be the appropriate student learning outcomes when teaching an ethics-based course.
- Supported faculty member Eddie Garcia to continue his [FIG on Distance Learning](#). The goal is to bring together a community of distance education practitioners and learn from each other, explore technology meant to enhance distance education, review best practices, and share insight gained through teaching distance learning courses.
- Supported faculty member Ted Hadzi-Antich to lead and expand offerings of a [FIG called "Faculty Intellectual Feasts"](#). This group meets four times a year and reads literary works that are not directly related to teaching. The goal is to allow an interdisciplinary group of faculty to enjoy regular dinners and discussions that lead to their growth as scholars. The interest has grown for this group and Ted hosted two separate groups of this FIG this year.

### **Plans for 2021-22**

This next academic year we plan to continue to develop, promote and fund Faculty Interest Groups focusing on High Impact Teaching Practices. Having Faculty collaborate in these interdisciplinary groups has proven to be effective in positively impacting their teaching practices while building community and engagement at the college.

We are continuing to promote these opportunities to faculty completing TLA as an opportunity to do a deeper dive into a topic of interest with colleagues and continue the journey of learning.