



Fall 2008 Conference

# Culture Matters: Designing Learning Environments to Foster Cultural Awareness and Intercultural Competence

November 21-22, 2008

Sheraton Bloomington Hotel • Bloomington, MN

## Call for Proposals deadline: April 18, 2008

*The Collaboration for the Advancement of College Teaching & Learning invites proposals from college and university faculty, staff, administrators, and students for concurrent sessions on the conference theme. We especially encourage proposals for sessions that will promote stimulating dialogue, reflect diverse perspectives, and involve student presenters or co-presenters from across institutions. Proposals are peer reviewed and sessions are selected based on criteria listed on page two.*

The effects of culture are everywhere in higher education, providing abundant opportunities as well as challenges for strengthening college teaching and learning. They range from the implications of serving an increasingly diverse student population or integrating global learning into the curriculum to the ways each institution and discipline transmits its particular perspectives, values, and practices to new generations. For one institution, creating a more inclusive learning environment or attracting and retaining faculty of color require greater intercultural competence among faculty, staff, and students. For another—a tribal college seeking to embed Native American traditions into the curriculum, for example—building students' cultural awareness is central to living its mission. And for yet another, engaging multiple disciplinary perspectives or building a stronger partnership across academic and student affairs may be needed for integrated learning.

The goal of this conference is to explore the premise that culture, in all of its manifestations, is emerging as a fundamental influence on teaching and learning in the 21st century. Not only must today's students be culturally aware and intercultural competent to be successful, but efforts to strengthen college teaching and learning can be helped or hindered according to whether cultural differences are taken into account. The learning-centered institution is one where reflection on diverse perspectives is embedded in its work—one where *culture matters*.

We invite proposals for concurrent sessions that address the conference theme by disseminating and modeling effective practice or promoting stimulating dialogue, inquiry, and problem-solving on topics such as these:

### **Embedding and Promoting Intercultural Competence Across the Institution**

- How can we use the cultural dimensions of our work to strengthen teaching and learning?
- How can we bridge cultural differences across faculty and staff to work toward common goals for teaching and learning?
- What approaches can help campuses successfully attract and retain a more diverse faculty and staff?
- How can we provide opportunities for learning that integrate multiple cultural perspectives?
- What approaches help to build inclusive learning environments and foster intercultural learning?
- How can campuses build connections between international and domestic diversity issues?
- What and how can the broader community contribute?

### **Addressing the Affective Dimensions of Learning**

- What role does emotion play in creating barriers to learning? How can affective learning be used to build greater cultural awareness and intercultural competence?
- How can we create a more inclusive campus climate that supports a culture of learning for all?
- How can we engage members of the campus community in rigorous debate without compromising civility?

### **Sustaining Cultural Learning**

- How do we support the development of specific cultural communities while creating shared experiences for all?
- What approaches will enable us to sustain and improve our attention to cultural learning?
- Which methods best assess intercultural and culture-based learning and promote continuous improvement?

See "Tips for Preparing a Successful Proposal" on the following page.

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*An alliance of colleges and universities that supports and promotes outstanding college teaching and learning*

# Tips for Preparing a Successful Proposal

The following guidelines are based on past evaluations and Collaboration policy. Please read these instructions carefully and be sure to submit all three sections of the session proposal (cover sheet, narrative, and abstract).

## 1

### COVER SHEET

**Session title:** Craft a title that is clear and concise (10 words or less) and will pique participant interest. Participants want practical ideas and information that they can apply in their own settings. Choose a title that clearly conveys the subject of your session so that participants know what to expect. Appeal to a broad mix of participants, and avoid using language that might limit your audience.

**Presenters:** Teams of two to four presenters are most effective. Keep in mind the length and content of your session, and plan ways for all presenters to contribute in a meaningful way.

Successful sessions often include undergraduate student presenters or others who can lend different perspectives, such as faculty from different disciplines, student development staff, or administrators. Note that undergraduate student presenters from Collaboration member institutions can register for free.

**Presenter commitment:** By submitting this proposal, you are indicating that you are all available, committed to participating, and prepared to register at the regular conference fees. Presenters whose paid registrations have not been received at least two weeks before the conference may be dropped from the program.

**Audio-visual request:** Equipment rental is expensive and must be covered by fees, so please consider your request carefully. If you need a laptop computer for your session, you will need to bring your own. If you plan to show web pages, download them onto your laptop instead of requesting a live Internet connection. For other equipment, we will meet your needs within reasonable limits of cost and availability.

## 2

### NARRATIVE PROPOSAL

Your narrative should be two to three pages in length and address the following:

**Topic:** Explain clearly what your session is about, how it relates to the conference theme, and the intended audience.

**Rationale:** Explain why your topic will be of interest to your intended audience. Identify connections with current research literature or education trends.

**Goals:** Clearly identify what your audience will learn. Participants are interested in gaining practical, innovative

strategies and techniques that they can use in their own classes and programs.

**Participant involvement:** The Collaboration has a commitment to active, inclusive learning and to modeling outstanding teaching. We encourage presenters to provide opportunities for *meaningful* participant interaction. Activities should be designed to help participants achieve the learning goals for the session; they should not be "busywork."

**Organization:** Regular sessions are 75 minutes. Double sessions, which are less frequent, are 2 1/2 hours, plus a break. Plan carefully to achieve your goals in the allotted time. Provide a timeline for your session, outlining the sequence of activities. For example:

Introductions and Icebreaker (10 minutes)  
Interactive Presentation (identify key points) (15 minutes)  
Activity 1 (describe) (15 minutes)  
Group Discussion (10 minutes)  
Activity 2 (describe) (15 minutes)  
Review and Reflect (5 minutes)  
Wrap-up and Evaluation (5 minutes)

**Materials:** Provide participants with copies of overhead transparencies, PowerPoint slides, or other material you use. Provide a bibliography or resource list, if appropriate.

**Session results:** How will you know whether participants have achieved your learning goals? Please offer something concrete, such as "participants will develop a plan for identifying the relevant characteristics, backgrounds, and needs of their students on the first day of class."

## 3

### ABSTRACT

**Content:** Your abstract should be 120 words or less. If your proposal is accepted, your abstract will be used to market your session to potential participants. It should communicate your session plan clearly and accurately, so that participants know what to expect. A useful approach is to explain (1) what your session is about, (2) what participants will experience and do, (3) what they will learn, and (4) what materials, if any, they will take away. If you develop your plan further after the abstract is published, be sure to honor what you promise in the abstract, so participants aren't disappointed.

**Style:** Use the active voice wherever possible, and avoid unexplained acronyms and jargon.

### QUESTIONS?

Contact The Collaboration at (651) 646-6166 or [collab@collab.org](mailto:collab@collab.org). Additional information on this and previous conferences is available at [www.collab.org](http://www.collab.org).

# Proposal Cover Sheet

## Culture Matters

Proposals must be typed and received by **April 18, 2008**. Please complete and submit the following according to the "Tips for Preparing a Successful Proposal": (a) this cover sheet, (b) your narrative proposal (2-3 pages), and (c) your abstract (no more than 120 words).

**We will let you know the status of your proposal in May and will be preparing the conference brochure in June and July. Please make sure that we will be able to reach your primary contact during that time (see below).**

1. SESSION TITLE: \_\_\_\_\_

2. **PRESENTERS:** We recommend limiting the number of presenters to four. If necessary, list additional presenters on a separate sheet and include rationale in the proposal narrative. For titles, use "associate professor," "dean," etc. For students, list year in college and major, under "Title." If there will be more than one presenter, designate one individual as the primary contact person.

**a. Primary Contact** \_\_\_\_\_

Title \_\_\_\_\_

Department \_\_\_\_\_

Institution \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

Telephone \_\_\_\_\_

Fax \_\_\_\_\_

Email \_\_\_\_\_

Where can this person be reached between June 1 and July

31, 2008? (Attach another page if necessary.) \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

Telephone \_\_\_\_\_

Email \_\_\_\_\_

Dates: From \_\_\_\_\_ To \_\_\_\_\_

**b. Name** \_\_\_\_\_

Title \_\_\_\_\_

Department \_\_\_\_\_

Institution \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

Telephone \_\_\_\_\_

Email \_\_\_\_\_

**c. Name** \_\_\_\_\_

Title \_\_\_\_\_

Department \_\_\_\_\_

Institution \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

Telephone \_\_\_\_\_

Email \_\_\_\_\_

**d. Name** \_\_\_\_\_

Title \_\_\_\_\_

Department \_\_\_\_\_

Institution \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

Telephone \_\_\_\_\_

Email \_\_\_\_\_

3. **INTENDED AUDIENCE(S):**  Faculty  Academic Administrators  Student Affairs  Faculty Developers  Others

4. **INTENDED AUDIENCE'S PRIOR EXPERIENCE WITH TOPIC:**  Basic  Intermediate  Advanced

5. **FORMAT** (check one):  regular session (75 min)  double/workshop session (2 1/2 hrs)

6. **AUDIO-VISUAL REQUEST:** See the instructions under "Tips."

LCD Projector  Flipchart  Overhead Projector  Screen  DVD/Monitor  Other \_\_\_\_\_

**PRESENTER AGREEMENT:** *If selected, we agree to offer the proposed session, to pay registration fees by the Early Bird deadline, and to participate throughout the conference.*

**SIGNATURE OF PRIMARY CONTACT**

\_\_\_\_\_

Mail, email, or fax your completed proposal to reach The Collaboration by April 18, 2008.

The Collaboration, 2356 University Avenue W., Suite 230, St. Paul, MN 55114 • Fax: (651) 646-3162 • Email: collab@collab.org



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Fall 2008 Professional Development Conference

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