

Ep. 077: Summer Institute 2022

<https://prodev.illinoisstate.edu/podcast/2022/ep077.shtml>

Dr. Jennifer Friberg and Dr. Dana Karraker join Jim to preview CTLT's Summer Institute 2022. They talk about design workshops, including some new opportunities centered on the scholarship of teaching and learning. They also discuss this year's Teaching Scholars in Residence and share ideas on how to approach professional development after a two summers' worth of pandemic.

Transcript

JIM: Hi there. I'm Jim.

DANA: I'm Dana.

JEN: And I'm Jen.

JIM: Let's Talk Teaching.

JIM: Welcome to Let's Talk Teaching, a podcast from the Center for Teaching, Learning and Technology here at Illinois State University. I'm Jim Gee. Spring is barreling along like an out-of-control freight train, at least that's what I feel. And we are looking ahead towards summer. That means a lot of different things, including professional development. And this is the first summer in a while where we may have something close to normal, or as one of my learned colleagues is joining me today, said before we started recording the new normal. So, joining me today on our pokey little podcast is Dr. Dana Karraker, Assistant Director for educational development programs.

DANA: Hi, Jim.

JIM: Hi, how are you?

DANA: I'm doing great.

JIM: Okay. And also joining us as our current director, Dr. Jennifer Friberg. She's also the cross endowed chair in the scholarship of teaching and learning. Hi Jen.

JEN: Hey, how are you?

JIM: Good. So, we decided to do a little preview of our summer institute programming and professional development opportunities. Dana, let me start with you. Before we go into details about what's going to be offered and some of the other opportunities, how should people approach professional development over the summer, especially since the last couple of summers because of the pandemic, they may not have done it.

DANA: That's true. So, we, as instructors and faculty have had to do a lot of shifting and the way that we've done things, we've learned a lot of lessons with our teaching over the

past couple of years. So, I think to start, it would be helpful to take a look back over the past few semesters and think about what's worked, what may not have worked so well, what you've learned about yourself as an instructor, and then think about where you want to move. Going forward. Some things that you might be interested in trying out, or some things that didn't work so well that you want to improve upon. So, starting there, and then making some goals for yourself, and then looking to see what we have available and making those decisions.

JIM: And of course, we could also consult with people one on one, you know, we talk a lot about workshops, and I kind of framed our conversation about workshops, but a lot of our contact with faculty comes through consultations, and they don't even have to be as formal as conference, you know, just email us and we'll give us call and we'll be happy to connect with you, Jen. I think it's an interesting time and that we've already had the lessons learned from the pandemic incorporating them into our teaching discussion that almost seems like that was last summer to an extent. Because here at ISU, we moved back to face-to-face class instruction in the fall. So, I think that there's what how would you characterize the next level of...

JEN: Post pandemic?

JIM: Yeah, post post pandemic? Yeah.

JEN: I think that the post-post pandemic for us is looking for something that inspires us as teachers, I think looking at the, the slate of programs that we're putting forward, there's some really great opportunities for folks to think about their courses and their students and their own teaching and in very different ways. And maybe that is, what we need right now is to do that and take the perspective of what- what is something that inspires me excites me motivates me to think about teaching and my students learning that related to that.

JIM: I would also say the corollary to that is that you don't have to feel guilty if you don't go headfirst into professional development, do what you need to do, right? Find, find a couple of things like you sit down and find a couple things that interest you, or that you've identified and just concentrate on those and don't feel like you have to do a whole 12 week.

DANA: What's the one thing and, and try that out? And so, we encourage that.

JEN: And if you can't commit to a whole workshop series or anything like that, you know, to your point, Jim, we do consultations all the time, right. And so, you know, you can email us at our CTLT@ilstu.edu and, you know, just ask any questions you have, are there resources that you're looking for ideas about readings or folks on campus, we might be able to connect you with to help you, you know, on a on a smaller scale, pursue professional development. So, it doesn't have to be entire experiences, but we offer those two and I think that we offer some really good ones. So, I'm excited to see how the summer unrolls between our reinvents and our different cohorts, our teaching scholars and residents and, and our faculty fellows. I think we just have a

really wonderful slate of facilitators and topics and I think there truly is something for everyone, if they're interested in being part of our Summer Institute.

JIM: Right. So, Dana, can you talk a little bit about maybe not even specific workshops of what are some of the themes that we're tackling this summer.

DANA: We're doing our course design cohorts, and we have different varieties of those. For those who are teaching a course, or have taught a course, maybe once it's time to make it their own, we have to design your course, we typically have people that are in early career, the first few years of their time here at ISU join that. And then we also have our redesigned for civic engagement and redesigned for diversity that is coming back as well. So of course, design cohorts are always something that we do in the summer gets faculty time to, to get support on the work they're going to do anyway. Let's talk about you know, I'm going to work on my course this summer, well, this is dedicated time, there's a stipend connected to it. And you can meet with your colleagues and get feedback.

JIM: Well, we've- we've talked internally for a while now. And people are going to notice that as we do more, you know, as we do our offerings going forward, more and more of them attached to that are going to have some sort of an artifact at the end of it some sort of a product at the end of it. Of course, design always has it's a course you're going to be teaching at some point. And we're kind of taking that, that sort of I guess we call them deliverable, that there'll be a deliverable for some other things as well. Now, Jen, with the course design workshops, we're also contemplating an additional incentive or an additional step, can you talk- Can you talk a little bit about that, how that ties into this scholarship of teaching and learning?

JEN: Absolutely. So actually, there's two things that I've mentioned. The first is that for the first time ever, I'm going to be offering an introduction to SOTL as sort of like a course design cohort, except it's the project design cohort. So, it's a week long experience where, of course, instructors can come and learn about the scholarship of teaching and learning and then actually plan a course with their peers and some mentorship from experienced SOTL scholars. And so that will unfold over a week's time. But also, for the folks who attend the reinvent cohorts, they will have an opportunity to apply for a new kind of grant called the Impact grant. And as we move forward with developing our scholarly teaching unit, and bringing Soto formally into the center, for the first time, because the crosshairs always been a separate entity on campus, we are providing the incentive to faculty to study the outcomes of their reinvented courses. And so, they can apply for these grants and plan a project with me and others who receive the grant as sort of a acetyl cohort that will work together into the coming academic year.

JIM: So, that's something that for those who sign up for a course design workshop, if they win, they're welcome to the cohort, the facilitators will have information on— On the that impact grant, correct?

JEN: Yes. That is accurate.

- JIM: So it's one of the rare times I can say you won't find that on our website, that it'll be something that we're going to be handling a little more internally, just for those folks that that become part of those cohorts. So and then we also mentioned our teaching scholars, I don't know which one of you wants to just I know, we're still we're still developing some stuff. So, we have three of them again, this year.
- DANA: We do have three, yeah. And the teaching scholars in residence is a program that was started last summer. And so, we're this is our second summer for that. It's- it's a program that taps into the expertise of our faculty and course instructors. So, we invite people to submit proposals for a deeper dive into a topic related to equity, diversity and inclusion, or student success. And so, we received a number of proposals, wonderful proposals, and we selected three. So, we will have three programs, we'll be announcing our teaching scholars in residence soon. And that information will be on the website.
- JEN: Yeah. And we're really excited to work with them, our faculty, fellows and other campus partners. It's a wonderful opportunity for us to collaborate outside of the center with our you know, other units, other people who have expertise in teaching and learning and topics that really are important to dive into to really maximize our ability to teach well and support our students.
- JIM: And so, our Summer Institute has evolved over the last couple of years actually seems like it's been constantly evolving since Dana, you and I started here nine years ago or so. But one thing that is that we tried to start a couple years ago was t-o was to have these experiences taking place a little earlier in the summer, sometimes they would linger very close. Those that are into August. And so, when people go to the website as we start to build this out, and it's kind of an iterative process, we do different flavors of workshops at different times to get them online. But once we do all of that, you're going to find that a lot of the professional development that we're advertising we're offering right now ends around mid-July. And that's because we are going to have a busy summer for many reasons, including the fact that there is, I don't know if it's a record, but there are an awful lot of faculty hires happening. Yeah. So, Dean, I don't want to put you on the spot. But we you also as part of your portfolio here at CTLT. Shepard shepherd us through the new faculty orientation process. Do you have any little preview about what you're going to be working on over the summer for that? Is it going to be? In other words, are we we're probably not going back to a full one-day thing, right?
- DANA: No. Lessons learned from being in a pandemic, we will have an online component that is a nice introduction to Illinois State when people are still not moved here, or you know, they're- they're joining us and staying out. So, there'll be an online component that we will be working on. And that should be available in July for people to explore and participate in at their convenience. And then we are incorporating new faculty orientation into faculty prep week. We'll, of course, have a short Welcome to ISU session, but then selecting our planning sessions that will help new course instructors and new faculty to start their semester and different we know people have different needs and wants and interests. So, we'll have a selection and people can come to as

many things that they are interested in. And those will be throughout the week before classes start.

JIM: And again, I didn't mean to put you on the spot for that. But you know, I'm hoping that people, we may have some new faculty members who maybe they listen to our podcast. You know, so rest assured there will be we're keeping you in mind as well when we get closer to the end of the summer. But the summer hasn't technically begun yet. And so, folks can find out. We'll be sending out email messages, of course, to the faculty and we'll be putting stuff up on our website. I think the Redbirds keep teaching section of our website is finally going to be kind of moved off to someplace else. And we'll gain our big picture on the homepage space again. So, we can put Summer Institute and our summer programming front and center.

JEN: Absolutely. I think the only other thing that I'd want to say about summer institute is that we're trying to be sensitive to the fact that not everyone's excited to be face-to-face. Some people prefer virtual. And I think Dana and everyone on staff has done a really nice job of trying to offer a variety of different modalities for our professional development. We recognize that virtual allows some flexibility that doesn't exist with face to face, but there are some topics and experiences that might lose some flavor and fashion if we don't do them face to face. So, I think pay attention as you're looking at the website to our offerings, the modalities for each of our workshops and workshop series will be listed and hopefully you'll find something that falls into your interest zone and your comfort zone.

JIM: Yeah, Dana, thank you so much. And that's all the time we have for this episode of Let's Talk Teaching. Find out more about our podcast, and of course to find out about our summer programming, go to CTLT.Illinoisstate.edu. For Dr. Jennifer Friberg, for Dr. Dana Karraker, and for all my colleagues here at CTLT, until we talk again, Happy Teaching!