

— Call for Applications —

CTE Best Practices Institute 2020

KU faculty and instructional staff members are invited to attend the Center for Teaching Excellence's Best Practices Institute, a collegial, hands-on seminar for teachers who want to reflect on and learn to represent their teaching. BPI is a good first experience for interacting with colleagues about course design. In BPI, you will focus on one thing you want to change in one of your courses. You will work in small groups with teachers from various disciplines, as well as with colleagues who have successfully implemented changes in their teaching. By the end of BPI, you will have a plan in place and will be ready to implement the course change you want to make next year, and you will be ready to document the results of your teaching project.

What will you do in BPI?

You will learn more about designing a course, making the most of class time, using out-of-class time, assessing learning, and representing your teaching. Examples of projects completed during BPI include:

- Physics professor who reduced lecture time and added small group problem-solving activities in class
- History professor who scaffolded writing tasks to improve students' work in a capstone course
- Architecture professor who implemented problem-based learning in a graduate class

After you complete the seminar, you will create a poster about your course, which documents your teaching project and tracks implementation of your ideas. And as a BPI participant, in FY21 you will receive a \$1000 instructional fund you can use for materials, travel, or hourly help for any teaching project.

What have participants said about it?

- "I liked the discussions, the challenge to think more scholarly about my teaching. I liked the emphasis to start small and change one thing—it wasn't overwhelming or intimidating."
- "I learned a lot from exchanging ideas with people from other departments who had similar goals."
- "I appreciated the structured time to think about a course, time I would not have managed to carve out."
- "This seminar stimulated my thinking far more than I expected. It enabled me to make connections between various aspects of the course that can/should/need to be developed."

When is the BPI?

Seminar meetings will be held across 2.5 days, with one extra day in the middle to work on your project. Participants will meet Monday afternoon, all day Tuesday, and all day Thursday. Meetings will be held at CTE in 135 Budig. Participants will also attend two follow-up sessions during AY20-21.

How do I apply?

Submit an application by **March 25** through this web portal:

The application should be two pages and should address the following:

1. BPI participants learn more about designing a course to maximize student learning, making the most of class time, using out-of-class time to promote learning, assessing learning efficiently and productively, and representing your teaching effectiveness. Which of these topics would you most like to explore at BPI?
2. What features of your students' learning would you like to improve? How do you know that their learning in your course(s) is in need of further development?
3. Describe attempts you have made to achieve a teaching goal in one of your courses. Did you achieve your goal? What did you learn from the work that you did?
4. What's motivated you to apply for BPI?
5. What are two or three goals that you have for participating in BPI?

Applicants who have not been in the program before will have priority. If you are reapplying within five years of attending BPI, please address how your new application is different from the previous one.

Participants will be chosen and notified by April 17. Posters will be completed in April 2021.

Questions?

Contact Andrea Follmer Greenhoot at agreenhoot@ku.edu, or Judy Eddy at jeddy@ku.edu.