



ACTivATE: Ready to launch

Previously you indicated an interest in participating in the ACTivATE (Applied Critical Thinking for Advanced Technological Education) pilot project being developed by the Sierra STEM Collaborative.

Confirm: Please review this summary and confirm by May 15 whether or not you can participate as a member of a teacher and faculty workgroup starting in June 2013 and continuing through April 2014. Please confirm with Carol Pepper-Kittredge 916-660-7801 or cpepper-kittredge@sierracollege.edu or Karen Fraser-Middleton at 916-652-0993 or karen@marketingaction.com.

What: Interactive, collaborative professional development to infuse applied critical thinking skills into your curriculum and pedagogy.

- You will enhance one of your existing lessons with critical thinking.
- This pilot project will build on national research and experience in inserting critical thinking and problem solving skills into curriculum.
- This will be the first time the CAT critical thinking test will be given to high school students and the first time an applied assessment will be developed.
- The experience should dovetail work being done with Common Core in high school classes.
- It will also begin to address employers' needs for workers prepared with 21st Century Skills.

Who: 10-15 College & high school faculty, primarily in math and CTE

How: Initial training conducted by Northwestern University Searle Center for Teaching Excellence faculty using the CAT critical thinking test developed by Tennessee Technological University. You'll have access to coaching and curriculum development support from the Sierra STEM Collaborative. Follow-up 3-4 hour workshops will be held in fall 2013 and spring 2012.

Stipend: \$1000 for attending the workshops, participating in the 10-month project, documenting an existing lesson that has been enhanced with critical thinking and an applied assessment, and evaluating your experience.

When:

Initial two-day Workshop on June 13 and 14:

Day 1

Review the CAT test

Introduction to critical thinking and how the CAT test works (15) skills

Participants do some scoring and reflect on the scores

Participants reflect on how critical thinking can be operationalized

Participants think about learning outcomes

Day 2

Participants look at assessments and course specific assessments

Learn pedagogical approaches to enhance critical thinking

Design activities related to their lesson

Interim work – July through end of September 2013

Continue to design, refine, and document curriculum enhancements.

Coaching and support for participants to do interim work will be available

Possibly small field-testing may take place

1st follow up meeting – late September/early October 2013

Participants share an overview of their enhanced lesson with others

Participants critique lesson enhancements

Participants get training on developing discipline specific analogs

Participants start developing their customized analogs

Interim work – October - 2013

Participants further refine and pilot their work

Participants use their analogs

Coaching and support for participants to do interim work will be available

2nd follow up meeting – April 2014

Participants share result of pilot and further enhancements

Documentation of enhancements will be published for sharing with other faculty to use