NIU

NORTHERN ILLINOIS UNIVERSITY

ANNUAL REPORT 2006-2007

FACULTY DEVELOPMENT AND INSTRUCTIONAL DESIGN CENTER

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Foreword

This annual report summarizes Faculty Development and Instructional Design Center's programs, activities, and services for faculty, supportive professional staff and graduate teaching assistants at Northern Illinois University during 2006-2007. The information summarized in the report clearly indicates the continuing demand for development programs and services, and faculty, staff, and graduate teaching assistants' interest in participating in development activities in fulfillment of NIU's mission on teaching and scholarly activities.

Faculty Development and Instructional Design Center has been able to meet the continuing demand by offering a comprehensive range of programs, resources and services on teaching, technology integration, diversity, research and scholarly activities, and professional development opportunities, which very few faculty development centers in U.S. offer under one roof.

Center's accomplishments during 2006-2007 would not have been possible without the support of the Office of the Provost and the hard work and dedication of the Center staff. Center staff seek the continued support of academic and support units, and the enthusiastic participation of faculty, staff, and graduate teaching assistants in development programs and activities.

Yours truly,

Murali Krishnamurthi
Director

Mission

The mission of Faculty Development and Instructional Design Center is to support faculty, academic supportive professional staff, and graduate teaching assistants through a variety of programs, resources, and services in fulfilling the Northern Illinois University's mission on teaching and scholarly activities.

Vision

Faculty Development and Instructional Design Center envisions an enriched academic environment at Northern Illinois University that facilitates and promotes effective teaching, supports professional development, stimulates research and scholarly activities, and encourages the integration of instructional technologies.

Functions

The major functions of the Center are to: provide opportunities to improve teaching effectiveness, promote research and scholarly activities, facilitate the use of instructional technologies in teaching, provide professional development opportunities, and serve as a referral service and as a resource unit.

Introduction

The 2006-2007 annual report of Faculty Development and Instructional Design Center summarizes the programs, activities, and accomplishments of the Center during its eighth full academic year of operation since its reorganization in August 1998. The significant accomplishments of the Center during 2006-2007 include:

- Offering 156 programs for more than 2,300 participants.

- Inviting 6 national and regional experts to present programs at NIU.

- Promoting the use of Blackboard Web course management system.

- Supporting programs and activities on research and scholarly activities.

- Offering development programs for academic administrators including new department chairs.

- Participating in several internally and externally funded projects for faculty development initiatives.

- Promoting accessibility and diversity issues.

- Offering graduate teaching assistant training and development programs.

- Awarding several professional development grants and opportunities to faculty and SPS.

- Developing and publishing several online tutorials for faculty, staff and student use.

- Awarding Outstanding Graduate Teaching Assistant awards.

During 2006-2007, Center staff collaborated with various academic and support units to meet the ongoing and evolving needs of NIU faculty, academic supportive professional staff, and graduate teaching assistants in their teaching, technology integration, professional development, and research and scholarly activities. Without the help and support of the various campus units, administrators, faculty, supportive professional staff, civil service staff, and graduate teaching assistants, the Center could not have accomplished its goals during 2006-2007. Center staff would like to express their sincere appreciation to the NIU community for its continued support of faculty development activities.
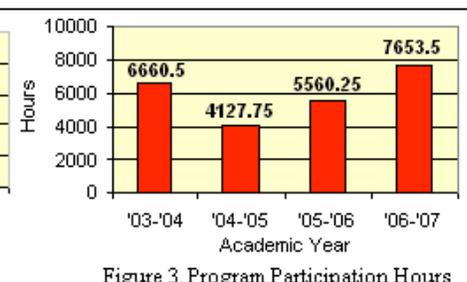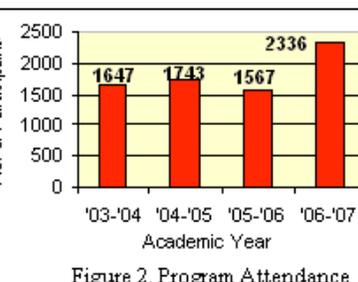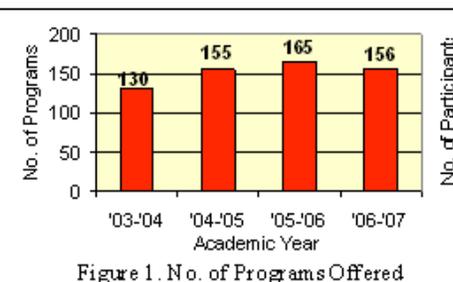
The Center is especially grateful to Executive Vice President and Provost, Dr. Raymond Alden III, and the Provost's Office staff for their support of the Center's activities. Faculty Development Advisory Committee members' advice and participation in the Centers programs, and the academic and support units' support of the Center's activities were invaluable for the Center's operation during 2006-2007.

Program Data

The Center offered 156 formally-scheduled programs between August 16, 2006 and August 15, 2007. The total attendance for these programs was 2,336 and the total number of hours the attendees spent for these programs was 7,653.5. These numbers include one-time and repeat participation by faculty, Supportive Professional Staff, graduate teaching assistants, some students, and guests.

Figures 1, 2 and 3 show the number of programs offered by Center staff each academic year for the past four years, program attendance and program participation hours of those who attended the programs.

Program participation had to be limited in some cases due to space and coordination staff constraints. Program data reported here does not include information dissemination meetings. Some programs were co-sponsored by the Center with

Figure 1. No. of Programs Offered   Figure 2. Program Attendance   Figure 3. Program Participation Hours

other units on campus. Data on consultations, grants and other development programs offered are included in separate sections of this report.

Participation in Center's programs is completely voluntary and the continued participation of faculty, teaching staff, and GTAs in the programs indicates their sustained interest in professional development programs on teaching improvement, technology integration, and related areas.

Attendance for programs generally varies year to year due to a number of reasons including program topics (that is, whether they are of general interest to all faculty or only to some faculty), name recognition of invited speakers, incentives such as lunch or books offered to participants, and date and time of program offerings. The increase in total program attendance for 2006-2007 can be attributed to continued interest of faculty, SPS, and TA in participating in Center's programs and the participation of more than 500 attendees in the "Customer Service, Disney Style," co-sponsored by Outreach Services and Faculty Development and Instructional Design Center in June 2007.

As the number of programs and program attendance figures alone cannot give a true picture of the actual duration of professional development activities during an academic year, Center staff decided to track also the actual number of hours that participants spent on professional development activities. This data was helpful to the Center to assess the cost effectiveness of programs offered and use its resources effectively. Whenever possible the Center requested sponsorship or co-sponsorship of programs by other units on campus.

The Center offered 36 formally scheduled programs on teaching effectiveness, technology integration, and diversity for GTAs between August 16, 2006 and August 15, 2007. The total attendance for these programs was 386. These numbers include one-time and repeat participation

by some graduate teaching assistants.

Figures 4, 5, and 6 show the number of GTA programs offered by the Center each academic year for the past four years, attendance figures for GTA programs and the program participation hours of those who attended the programs. It should be emphasized here that the Center was given the responsibility for GTA training and development only since fall 2003.
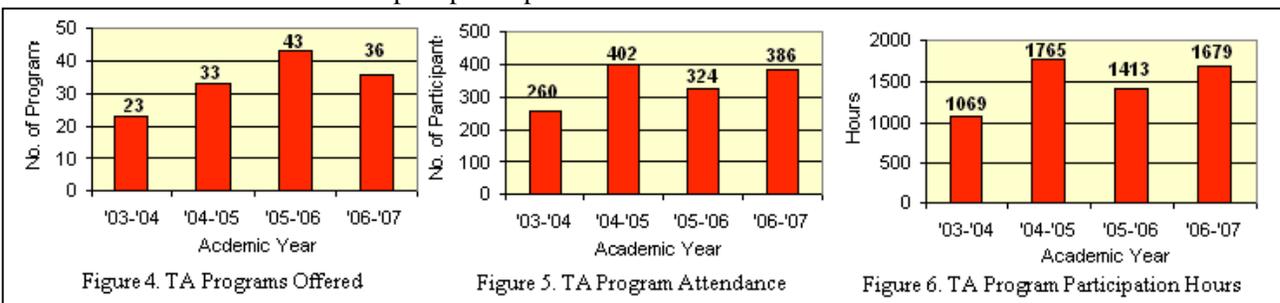
Teaching Effectiveness

Faculty Development and Instructional Design Center promotes effective teaching through the following activities and services:

- Arranging workshops, seminars, institutes and related programs on teaching effectiveness

- Providing instructional design consultations

- Offering workshops on integrating technology into teaching

- Offering teaching-related consultations and classroom observations

- Promoting multicultural and international education

- Providing access to resources on teaching

During 2006-2007, the Center offered teaching effectiveness programs of varying durations on a number of topics of interest to faculty, academic supportive professional staff, and graduate teaching assistants. The Center invited the following three nationally-recognized presenters to offer workshops on various topics on teaching.

- Gregory Justice (Virginia Tech)

- Barbara Millis (University of Nevada-Reno)

- Stephen Zerwas (University of North Carolina-Greensboro)

Figure 4. TA Programs Offered
Figure 5. TA Program Attendance
Figure 6. TA Program Participation Hours

Teaching Effectiveness Institutes

As in previous years, the Center offered Teaching Effectiveness Institutes at the beginning of fall and spring semesters for faculty and teaching staff during 2006-2007. The fall Teaching Effectiveness Institute was for two days: Day 1 consisted of a series of presentations on "Fundamental Principles of Instruction" and Day 2 consisted of a daylong workshop on a particular topic of interest.

The spring Teaching Effectiveness Institute consisted of a one-day workshop on an advanced topic of interest. Faculty participation in Teaching Effectiveness Institutes during 2006-2007 remained comparable to previous years. Attendance for the institutes reflects faculty members' continued interest in teaching effectiveness and the Center's effort in offering programs that meet their needs and interests. Figure 7 shows the attendance for the Teaching Effectiveness Institute for the last four academic years.

Teaching Assistant Orientation

Since Fall 2003, the Center has been offering daylong Teaching Assistant Orientations at the beginning of fall and spring semesters. These orientations are attended by graduate teaching assistants, research assistants and staff assistants at NIU. The Fall TA Orientation usually includes a series of presentations in the morning for all attendees and concurrent sessions on different topics of interest in the afternoon. The spring TA orientation includes a series of sessions on a number of advanced teaching topics of interest for all attendees. The sessions are presented by faculty, staff and TAs at NIU.

Participation in TA Orientations is voluntary for graduate assistants from a majority of academic units, but some academic units require their

graduate assistants to participate in the orientation. Many academic units require their GTAs to participate in the fall TA Orientation, but not in the spring TA Orientation. Fall 2006 TA Orientation included a series of presentations in the morning for all attendees and the afternoon sessions included 5 concurrent sessions on different topics of interest to GTAs. Spring 2007 TA Orientation included morning and afternoon sessions on a variety of topics for all attendees.

Figure 8 shows TA Orientation participation since Fall 2003, the first year the Center was in charge of the program. Similar to faculty programs, attendance for TA programs also varies from year to year due to a number of reasons including the topics of major programs, name recognition of invited speakers, incentives, such as lunch or door prizes offered to participants, date and time of program offerings, and if program participation is required by academic units or not.

Teaching effectiveness programs offered by the Center during 2006-2007

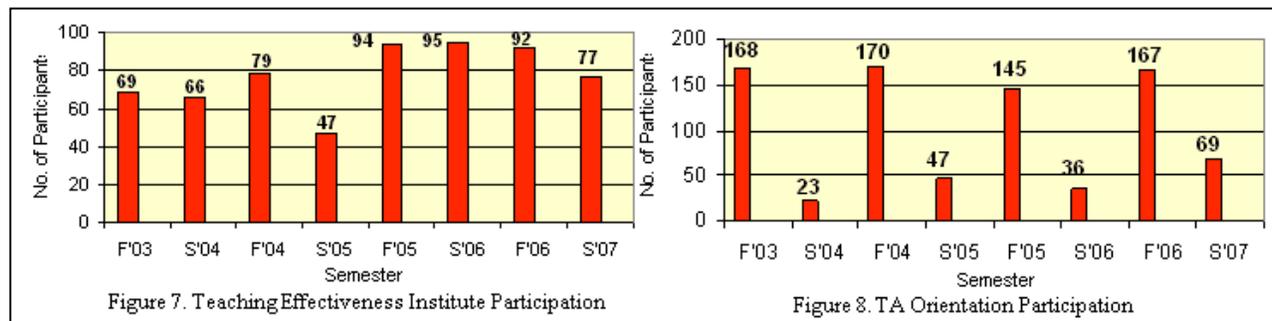"Fall '06 Teaching Effectiveness Institute," offered by Janet Giesen on August 17, 2006.

"Fall '06 Teaching Effectiveness Institute: The Art of Teaching: Using Performance Techniques in Improving Teaching," by Gregory Justice (Virginia Tech) on August 18, 2006.

"Fall '06 Teaching Assistant Orientation," coordinated by Center staff on August 22, 2006.

"Writing Goals and Objectives: There is a Difference," offered by Janet Giesen on September 6, 2006.

"Millennial Students in the University Classroom-Video Discussion," offered by Chigozie Achebe on September 8, 2006.

"What Can We Learn From Student Feedback?"

Figure 7. Teaching Effectiveness Institute Participation

Figure 8. TA Orientation Participation

Greg Justice presents the Teaching Effectiveness Institute on August 18, 2006

offered by Chigozie Achebe on September 13, 2006.

"Ice Breakers and Games to Warm up the Classroom Environment," offered by Janet Giesen on September 14, 2006.

"Developing a New Course," offered by Janet Giesen on September 27, 2006.

"Creating Workable Writing Assignments," offered by Chigozie Achebe on October 4, 2006.

"Plagiarism and You," offered by Brad Peters (Department of English) on October 13, 2006.

"Thinking Together: Collaborative Learning Video Discussion," offered by Chigozie Achebe on October 17, 2006.

"The Effective Use of Graphics in Word and PowerPoint," offered by Janet Giesen on October 18, 2006.

"Presidential Teaching Professor Seminar: A Traveling Salesman Walked into a Bar: Teaching and Learning with Humor in University Classrooms," presented by Dr. Gene Roth (Department of Counseling, Adult, and Higher Education) on October 24, 2006.

"Electronic Feedback to Enhance Teaching and Learning," offered by Janet Giesen on November 7, 2006.

"Presentation and Facilitation Techniques," offered by Janet Giesen on November 15, 2006.

"Developing Your Teaching Portfolio," offered by Chigozie Achebe on November 28, 2006.

"Concept Mapping for Teaching and Learning," offered by Janet Giesen on December 6, 2006.

"Spring '07 Teaching Effectiveness Institute: Using Cooperative Activities to Promote Learning," presented by Barbara J. Millis, University of Nevada, Reno on January 11, 2007.

"Spring '07 Teaching Assistant Orientation," coordinated by Center staff on January 12, 2007.

"Understanding and Integrating Teaching and Learning Styles," offered by Janet Giesen on January 18, 2007.

"Making Larger Classes Work Video Discussion for GTAs," offered by Chigozie Achebe on January 26, 2007.

"Effective Presentation Delivery Skills," offered by Janet Giesen on February 5, 2007.

"Online Teaching Brownbag," offered on:

- October 17, 2006 by Jason Rhode.

- November 21, 2006 by Mary Sheldon and Kathy Wright (External Programs, College of Liberal Arts and Sciences).

- February 26, 2007 by Mary Sheldon and Kathy Wright (External Programs, College of Liberal Arts and Sciences).

"Design Principles for Projected Media," offered by Janet Giesen on February 14, 2007.

"Teaching with PowerPoint-Beyond the Basics," offered by Janet Giesen on February 27, 2007.

"Teaching with Gagne's Nine Events of Instruction," offered by Janet Giesen on March 20, 2007.

"Creating the Teaching Philosophy Statement," offered by Chigozie Achebe on March 20, 2007.

"Looking at Learning Objectively," presented by Stephen Zerwas (University of North Carolina-Greensboro) on March 23, 2007.

"Online Teaching Brownbag," offered by Janet Giesen on March 26, 2007.

"Presidential Teaching Professor Seminar: Visual Literacy: Learning to See, Seeing to Learn," presented by Rhonda Robinson (Department of Educational Technology, Research and Assessment) on March 29, 2007.

"Assessment Rubrics for Effective and Efficient Grading," offered by Janet Giesen on April 12, 2007.

"Enhancing Classroom Presentations with PowerPoint and Scanned Images," offered by Jason Rhode and Dan Cabrera on April 17, 2007.

"Online Teaching Brownbag," offered by Jason Rhode on April 23, 2007.

"Why Student Engagement Matters: Using NSSE Results for Assessment and Accountability," webinar offered by George Kuh (Indiana University) on April 24, 2007.

"Effective Teaching with Interactive Pen (SMART Panel) Displays," offered by Janet Giesen on April 24, 2007.

"Designing Effective Instruction," offered by Janet Giesen on May 17, 2007.

"Writing Goals and Objectives: There is a Difference," offered by Janet Giesen on June 14, 2007.

"What Can We Learn from Student Feedback?" offered by Chigozie Achebe on June 26, 2007.

"Teaching a New Course," offered by Janet Giesen on July 11, 2007.

"The Art of Discussion Leading -- Video Discussion," offered by Chigozie Achebe on July 12, 2007.

The above list does not include customized teaching effectiveness programs offered by the Center for some academic units.

Diversity

Faculty Development and Instructional Design Center views diversity as an integral part of teaching effectiveness, technology integration, research and scholarly activities, and promotes diversity through related programs, services, and resources. The Center contributes to diversity activities at NIU through its participation in various diversity-related committees on campus.

Janet Giesen with Dennis Barsema, one of the attendees of the Teaching Effectiveness Institute

The Center also participated in the selection of the International Educator of the Year Award sponsored by the Division of International Education.

During 2006-2007, the Center invited the following nationally and regionally-recognized presenters to offer workshops on diversity:

- Nilhan Gunasekera (University of Wisconsin-Rock County)
- Susan R. Jones (University of Maryland-College Park)

During 2006-2007, the Center offered several programs on various aspects of diversity in collaboration with other units on campus. Listed below are some of those programs:

"Fall '06 TA Orientation Concurrent Session: International TA Experience," presented by Reynaldo Ty (International Training Office) on August 22, 2006.

"Web Accessibility: Instructional Implications," presented by Dan Cabrera on October 9, 2006.

"Teaching Inclusively in Science, Math, Engineering and Related Curricula," presented by Nilhan Gunasekera (University of Wisconsin-Rock County) on October 27, 2006.

Susan Jones presents the workshop on Integrating Service Learning in Courses for Multicultural Outcomes on February 23, 2007

"Access to Learning: Meeting the Needs of Students with Disabilities," presented by Nancy Kasinski (Center for Access-Ability Resources) on October 30, 2006.

"Cultural Awareness in the Classroom - Video Discussion," presented by Chigozie Achebe on November 8, 2006.

"Integrating Service Learning in Courses for Multicultural Outcomes," presented by Susan R. Jones (University of Maryland-College Park) on February 23, 2007.

"Cultural Awareness in the Classroom Video Discussion," offered by Chigozie Achebe on April 6, 2007.

"Religious Diversity," panel presentation coordinated by Murali Krishnamurthi at NIU's Multicultural Curriculum Transformation Institute on May 18, 2007.

Technology Integration

The Center promotes technology integration into teaching, courses, and curricula through the following activities and services:

- Offer workshops, seminars, institutes, and related programs on integrating a wide spectrum of technologies into teaching

- Provide a laboratory environment for faculty to experiment with instructional technologies

- Serve as the initial point of contact for faculty teaching online credit courses

- Offer training programs on web course management software and online pedagogy

- Make available resources on instructional technologies and related topics

- Collaborate with other units to provide support for faculty in integrating instructional technologies

The Center views technology integration as part of teaching effectiveness and not independent of teaching. Technology integration programs offered by the Center focus on both pedagogy and technology skills and range from the integration of basic instructional technologies to advanced multimedia technologies.

Technology integration programs offered by the Center during 2006-2007

"Introduction to Blackboard," offered by Jason Rhode on August 30, 2006.

"Multimedia Integration into Blackboard," offered by Dan Cabrera on:

- August 31, 2006.
- July 26, 2007.

"Multimedia Sampler," offered by Dan Cabrera on September 1, 2006.

"Blackboard I: Introduction to Blackboard," offered on:

- September 5, 2006 by Jason Rhode.
- October 12, 2006 by Jason Rhode.
- November 14, 2006 by Jason Rhode.
- December 4, 2006 by Jason Rhode.
- January 9, 2007 by Jason Rhode.
- February 6, 2007 by Jason Rhode.
- March 7, 2007 by Jason Rhode.
- April 5, 2007 by Jason Rhode.
- May 22, 2007 by Olga Urban for UNIV 101 Instructors.
- June 12, 2007 by Olga Urban.
- June 12, 2007 by Olga Urban for Foreign Languages & Literatures Instructors.
- July 23, 2007 by Olga Urban for NIU Instructors.

- August 1, 2007 by Jason Rhode.

"Blackboard Overview for GTAs," offered by Chigozie Achebe on:

- September 5, 2006.
- February 1, 2007.
- June 13, 2007.

"Blackboard II: Getting Started in Blackboard," offered on:

- September 7, 2006 by Jason Rhode.
- September 21, 2006 by Chigozie Achebe for GTAs.
- November 20, 2006 by Jason Rhode.
- December 13, 2006 by Jason Rhode.
- January 17, 2007 by Jason Rhode.
- February 13, 2007 by Olga Urban.
- March 22, 2007 by Jason Rhode.
- April 11, 2007 by Jason Rhode.
- June 19, 2007 by Jason Rhode.
- June 27, 2007 by Olga Urban.
- July 17, 2007 by Olga Urban.
- July 25, 2007 for UNIV 101 Instructors by Olga Urban.
- August 13, 2007 by Jason Rhode.

"Personalizing the "Look" of Blackboard," offered on:

- September 14, 2006 by Jason Rhode.
- February 15, 2007 by Olga Urban.

"Podcast Series: Audio Podcasting," offered by Jason Rhode and Dan Cabrera on:

- September 15, 2006.
- January 19, 2007.
- March 21, 2007.
- July 19, 2007.

"Mastering the Control Panel in Blackboard," offered on:

- September 25, 2006 by Chigozie Achebe for GTAs.
- October 2, 2006 by Jason Rhode for faculty and staff.

"Setting Up Your Blackboard Gradebook," offered by Jason Rhode September 26, 2006.

"Capturing Audio on Your Computer," offered by Dan Cabrera on:

- October 20, 2006.
- February 8, 2007.

"Blackboard Open Lab," offered by Jason Rhode on:

- October 23, 2006.
- November 29, 2006.
- January 22, 2007.
- February 26, 2007.
- March 27, 2007.
- April 30, 2007.

"Introduction to Podcasting," offered by Jason Rhode and Dan Cabrera on:

- October 25, 2006.
- February 22, 2007.
- June 6, 2007.

"Blackboard Assessment Tools," offered by Jason Rhode on:

- October 26, 2006.
- October 31, 2006.
- April 25, 2007.

"Basic Video Capture and Editing," offered by Dan Cabrera on October 27, 2006.

"Converting Instructional Files to Digital Media on CD/DVD," offered by Dan Cabrera on November 9, 2006.

"Redesigning Course Materials for Online Delivery," offered on:

- November 10, 2006 by Jason Rhode for faculty and staff.
- April 9, 2007 by Chigozie Achebe for

Jason Rhode presents the Podcasting workshop

Olga Urban presents at the Teaching With Technology Institute on May 21, 2007

GTAs.
- August 8, 2007 by Jason Rhode for faculty and staff.

"Blackboard Communication Tools," offered on:
- November 17, 2006 by Chigozie Achebe for GTAs.
- April 18, 2007 by Jason Rhode.

"Web Accessibility: Instructional Implications," offered by Dan Cabrera on
- October 9, 2006.
- November 27, 2006.

"End of Semester considerations for your Blackboard Course," offered by Jason Rhode on:
- December 7, 2006.
- April 27, 2007.

"Short Focused Tutorials," offered by Dan Cabrera on:
- December 8, 2006.
- April 13, 2007.
- May 25, 2007.

"Introduction to SMART™ Interactive Panel Displays," cosponsored by Faculty Development and offered by Ginny Washburne (SMART Technologies) on:
- January 10, 2007 (2 sessions).
- January 12, 2007 (2 sessions).

"Blackboard: Navigation and Course Layout," offered by Chigozie Achebe on January 23, 2007.

"Introduction to Social Bookmarking," offered by Jason Rhode on January 25, 2007.

"Pedagogical Possibilities of Using Interactive Panel Displays," offered by Janet Giesen and Dan Cabrera on:
- January 30, 2007.
- March 30, 2007.

"Creating and Publishing Streaming Media with Real Helix," offered by Dan Cabrera on February 16, 2007.

"Configuring the Blackboard Gradebook," offered by Olga Urban on February 20, 2007.

"Mastering the Control Panel in Blackboard," offered by Chigozie Achebe on:
- February 28, 2007.
- June 14, 2007.

"Building Your Blackboard Course," offered by Chigozie Achebe on March 8, 2007.

"Controlling Students Access to Materials in Blackboard," offered by Jason Rhode on March 27, 2007.

"Creating and Sustaining Groups in Blackboard," offered by Jason Rhode on March 28, 2007.

"Enhancing Classroom Presentations w/PPT & Scanned Images," offered for GTAs by Chigozie Achebe and Dan Cabrera on April 17, 2007.

"Advanced Short Focused Tutorials," offered by Dan Cabrera on April 20, 2007.

"David W. Raymond Grant for the Use of Technology in Teaching Presentation Audio-Visual Explanations: Enriching the Classroom through Emerging Technology," by Mace Bentley, Andrew Krmenec, and Phil Young (Department of Geography) on April 26, 2007.

"New Tools and Features Coming to Blackboard," offered by Olga Urban on:
- May 10, 2007.
- June 11, 2007.

"Teaching with Technology Institute," offered by Center Staff on May 21, 2007.

Janet Giesen presents at the Teaching With Technology Institute on May 21, 2007

- "Visual Learning Technologies," offered by Janet Giesen.
- "Classroom Instructional Technologies," offered by Janet Giesen.
- "Social Networking Technologies," offered by Jason Rhode.
- "Classroom Instructional Technologies," offered by Dan Cabrera, Jason Rhode and Janet Giesen.
- "Self-Paced Learning Technologies," offered by Dan Cabrera.

"May 2007 Midwest Blackboard User's Group (SLATE) Meeting," hosted by Faculty Development and Instructional Design Center on May 23, 2007.

"Clickers in the Classroom," offered by Dan Cabrera, Janet Giesen, Jason Rhode and Olga Urban on June 21, 2007.

"Introduction to WebCRMA," presented by Jason Rhode on:

- June 28, 2007 for Office of Assessment Services.
- July 11, 2007 for Office of the Provost.

"Introduction to Clickers for College of Business," offered by Olga Urban, Janet Giesen and Jason Rhode on July 9, 2007.

"Creating and Using Course Wikis," offered by Olga Urban on July 24, 2007.

Facilities for experimenting with technologies

The Center has a twelve-station Collaboratory in Adams Hall Room 323 and a Digital Multimedia Studio in Adams Hall Room 334 with 4 PC workstations, 2 Mac stations, and a DVD duplicating station. The facilities are maintained by the Center for faculty, staff, and graduate teaching assistants to experiment with technologies, as well as for Center staff to conducts workshops on digital multimedia technologies.

Larger technology integration workshops are held in the Instructional Technology Teaching Laboratory in Altgeld Hall Room 100 or University Libraries' computing facilities located in Founders Library Room 297.

Online teaching initiatives

During 2006-2007, the Center developed and delivered several new workshops for assisting faculty and teaching staff with online teaching and learning. These workshops covered a variety of topics, including advanced features of Blackboard and technologies, such as Wikis, Blogs, Podcasting, Social Bookmarking, and Personal Response Systems. The focus of these workshops was not only to introduce participants to advanced technologies but also to help them integrate sound pedagogical techniques in their teaching.

The Teaching with Technology Institute, held on May 21, 2007, served as yet another venue for introducing these emerging technologies to the NIU teaching community. Center staff and invited faculty presenters provided an overview of various instructional technologies and shared with participants examples of how these technologies could be harnessed to enhance the teaching and learning environment.

Additionally, the Center assisted several individual faculty members with their online teaching needs related to developing, organizing and delivering materials and evaluating students in the online environment. Many faculty members scheduled regular sessions with the Center both before and during their first semester of online teaching.

Table 1. Blackboard Use by Individual Students

	2002	2003	2004	2005	2006	2007
Spring	7,695	12,966	15,737	18,406	19,399	20,319
Summer	1,438	2,612	3,320	4,248	4,592	5,348
Fall	11,371	16,411	18,756	20,596	22,625	22,873

Table 2. Blackboard Use by Individual Faculty

	2002	2003	2004	2005	2006	2007
Spring	238	357	403	618	702	721
Summer	57	108	155	202	231	271
Fall	259	425	516	667	865	909

Table 3. No. of Credit Course Sections on Blackboard

	2002	2003	2004	2005	2006	2007
Spring	344	661	865	1,272	1,314	1,445
Summer	65	110	154	236	239	287
Fall	535	855	1,098	1,314	1,857	1,876

Table 4. No. of Course Enrollments on Blackboard

	2002	2003	2004	2005	2006	2007
Spring	10,556	24,423	31,719	45,192	48,842	56,267
Summer	1,651	3,155	3,329	5,525	5,713	7,075
Fall	20,485	30,852	41,280	50,229	69,126	71,311

These sessions provided them the opportunity to review what was working and inquire about new strategies they would like to implement.

During 2006-2007, the Center continued to be active with the Blackboard Administrative and Blackboard Status groups, and handled faculty and teaching assistants' calls for assistance using Blackboard for teaching. This involvement included participation in ongoing efforts toward implementing the new Blackboard Content System to the Blackboard Learning System environment.

The Blackboard Content System is a feature-rich, fully integrated system for storing and sharing content, allowing users to manage learning content, digital assets, and ePortfolios in an enterprise learning environment. The Blackboard Content System will be piloted with select faculty during fall 2007 with plans for campuswide use in spring 2008.

In May 2007, the Blackboard Learning System was upgraded to version 7.1 and Center staff assisted with the testing of the upgraded system. The Center also updated Blackboard Support materials on the Web during summer 2007.

There has been a steady increase in the use of Blackboard during the past five years, as evidenced by the data on Blackboard usage provided in Tables 1 through 4. As evident from the tables, from spring 2002 to summer 2007, the use of Blackboard for teaching credit courses more than tripled at NIU.

The increase in use of Blackboard would not have been possible without the collaborative efforts of Information Technology Services, Registration and Records, and Faculty Development and Instructional Design Center for administering and supporting Blackboard, training faculty and graduate assistants on Blackboard by Center staff, the support of technical staff at various colleges and departments, and the enthusiasm of faculty and students at NIU for using online technologies.

Research and Scholarly Activities

The Center considers teaching, research, and scholarly activities as part of scholarship. The Center promotes research and scholarly activities through the following activities and services:

- Encourage collaborative research and scholarly efforts across disciplines

- Refer faculty to appropriate resource units that support research and scholarly activities at NIU, and convey faculty needs to these units

- Seek externally funded projects to support faculty development activities

- Sponsor programs on research and scholarly activities with the help of other units

During 2006-2007, the Center arranged the workshop, "Write Well, Publish More!" by Brad Peters (Department of English) on May 31, 2007.

Sponsored Projects

The Center submitted or participated with other units on campus in the submission of the following proposals to internal and external agencies to obtain funding during 2006-2007:

- "Promoting Responsible Peer Review and Publishing through Interactive e-learning Experience," submitted to the *Office of Research Integrity*, U.S. Department of Health and Human Services, 2005-2006. Proposal

Brad Peters presents the Write Well, Publish More workshop on May 31, 2007

funded for $25,000 and the project was completed in December 2006.

- "An Online Tutorial for Faculty on Promoting Academic Integrity," funded by *Committee for the Improvement of Undergraduate Education* for $3,500, April 2006, completed in October 2006.

- "Project for Improvement of Undergraduate Education: An Online Tutorial on Effective Writing Practices," funded by *Committee for the Improvement of Undergraduate Education* for $3,500, April 2007.

- "Colleagues Committed to Course Redesign," proposal for in-kind support funded by the National Center for Academic Transformation, June 2007.

Professional Development

The Center provides professional development opportunities to faculty and supportive professional staff through the following activities and services:

- Arrange mentors for new faculty who request such support

- Provide career consultation services to faculty

- Offer professional development grants to faculty and supportive professional staff

- Serve as a referral resource to faculty for their professional needs

- Assist the Office of the Provost in hosting the New Faculty Forum for new tenure-track faculty

- Convey faculty needs to the Provost's Office, and foster faculty development

During 2006-2007, the Center coordinated the New Faculty Forum for the Office of the Provost and also arranged a number of development programs for faculty, staff, and graduate teaching assistants.

The development programs offered during 2006-2007 include:

"New Faculty Forum," coordinated by Center Staff and co-sponsored by the Office of the Provost on August 24, 2006.

"New Academic Administrator Forum," coordinated by Center Staff and co-sponsored by the Office of the Provost on:

- September 8, 2006.
- August 7, 2007.

"Basics of Grantwriting for GTAs," coordinated by Chigozie Achebe on:

- November 1, 2006.
- February 14, 2007.

"Provost's Luncheon for First-Year Faculty," coordinated by Center Staff and co-sponsored by the Office of the Provost on March 1, 2007.

"Department Chair Development Workshop," coordinated by Center Staff and co-sponsored by the Office of the Provost on March 30, 2007.

"Customer Service, Disney Style," co-sponsored by Outreach Services and Faculty Development and Instructional Design Center on June 6, 2007.

Professional Development Grants

During 2006-2007, the Center coordinated the following grant programs:

- Faculty Development Grants

- Supportive Professional Development Grants

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- David Raymond Grant for the Use of Technology in Teaching
- Faculty Summer Institute on Learning Technologies Travel Grants

The Center offered the following professional development grant writing seminars during 2006-2007:

"Faculty Development Grant Writing Seminar," offered by Brenda Hodges on:

- October 6, 2006.
- March 9, 2007.

"Supportive Professional Staff Development Grant Writing Seminar," offered by offered by Brenda Hodges on:

- November 3, 2006.
- April 3, 2007.

<u>Faculty Development Grants</u>: Faculty Development and Instructional Design Center offers a number of development grants annually in two cycles to regular, continuing faculty (tenured or tenure track). The purpose of these grants is to encourage and support faculty development activities, such as attending/arranging workshops or seminars for teaching effectiveness, new learning that includes supplemental training that is not available on campus, learning or development of new technologies for teaching, and career redirection.

Faculty development grant recipients received a maximum of $2,500 each from the Center. They were required to submit a formal proposal, indicate matching funds, include letters of support from their academic units, and submit final reports after completing their development activities. The following faculty members were awarded faculty development grants during 2006-2007:

Grants Awarded for July to December 2006:

- Gerard Awanou (Department of Mathematical Sciences)
- Michelle Demaray and Christine Malecki (Department of Psychology)
- Luis Flores (Department of Management)
- Ashley Nason (School of Art)
- Deborah Robertson (School of Theatre and Dance)

Grants Awarded for January to June 2007:

- Leslie Riggs (Department of Geography)

<u>Supportive Professional Staff Development Grants</u>: Similar to faculty development grants, Faculty Development and Instructional Design Center and Human Resource Services offer Supportive Professional Staff Development grants annually in two cycles to Supportive Professional Staff at NIU.

The purpose of the SPS grants is similar to that of faculty development grants, and the recipients are offered a maximum of $1,000 each. They were required to submit a formal proposal and a letter of support from their supervisors, and submit final reports after completing their development activities. The following SP were awarded grants during 2006-2007:

Grants Awarded for July to December 2006:

- Stacey Deegan (Department of Technology)
- Joyce Keller (Career Services)
- Peter B. Olson (Art Museum)

Grants Awarded for January to June 2007:

- Kristin Duffy (Office of Sponsored Projects)
- Lisa King (CHANCE Program)
- Donna Mann (NIU Outreach)
- Scott Peska (Orientation and First Year Experience)

Mace Bentley presents his grant results at the David Raymond Grant Reception on April 26, 2007

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David Raymond Grant for the Use of Technology in Teaching: This grant is sponsored by Mr. David Raymond, former Member of NIU Board of Trustees, the Office of the Provost, and the NIU Foundation. One recipient is awarded $2,500 through the grant each year and required to give a public presentation of grant outcomes.

The 2007 grant was awarded to Mark Rosenbaum (Department of Marketing) at a formal reception on April 26, 2007. At this reception, Mace Bentley (Department of Geography) presented the accomplishments of the 2006 grant project that he was awarded along with two colleagues, Andrew Krmenec and Philip Young.

Faculty Summer Institute (FSI) on Learning Technologies Grants: The Center offered travel grants to the following 6 faculty and staff at NIU to attend the annual Faculty Summer Institute on Learning Technologies at the University of Illinois in Urbana-Champaign during May 2007:

- Meredith Ayers (University Libraries)
- Sabiha Daudi (Department of Teaching and Learning)
- Kai Rush (Department of Computer Science)
- Tao Xu (Department of Chemistry and Biochemistry)
- Dan Cabrera, presenter (Faculty Development and Instructional Design Center)
- Jason Rhode, campus coordinator, presenter, (Faculty Development and Instructional Design Center)

Recognitions

In spring 2004, the Center established the Outstanding Graduate Teaching Assistant Award to recognize the contributions of graduate teaching assistants to the teaching mission of NIU.

The award review subcommittee of the Faculty Development Advisory Committee reviewed the nominations for the awards and selected the following four recipients for 2007:

- Jason Jividen (Department of Political Science)
- Jennifer Ann Lichamer (School of Allied Health Professions)
- Rachel Moreno (Department of Biological Sciences)
- Kelley Wezner (Department of English)

Recipients of the 2007 Outstanding Graduate Teaching Assistant Awards

Each recipient of the award was presented with a plaque and recognized at the Graduate Student Reception sponsored by the Graduate School on April 23, 2007.

Consultations, Requests and Referrals

Apart from offering workshops on teaching, technology integration, research and scholarly activities, and development grants, Center staff offer consultations, referrals to other units on campus and requests for information on a range of issues for faculty, academic Supportive Professional Staff and graduate teaching assistants. A majority of the consultations were on technology issues, especially on the use of Blackboard web course management system for teaching purposes.

During 2006-2007, Center offered a total of 782 consultations, requests and referrals to 343 faculty, staff, and graduate teaching assistants. Many of these required numerous consultations of varying durations during the same period, and some were offered to groups of faculty on technology issues.

Figures 9 and 10 show the number of consultations offered by Center staff each academic year for the past four years, and the number of individuals who received such consultations. The consultations ranged from half an hour to several hours, and took place face-to-face, online, or via the telephone.

Apart from the mentioned consultations, Janet Giesen, Instructional Design Coordinator, at the Center, offered detailed classroom observations and feedback for faculty who requested such support during 2006-2007.
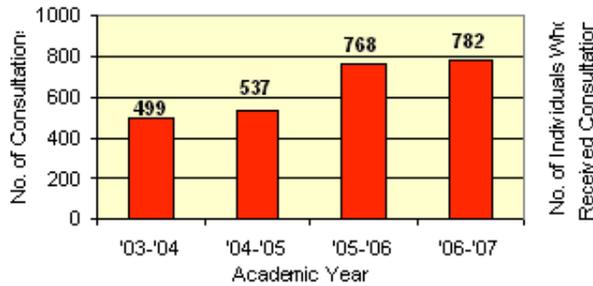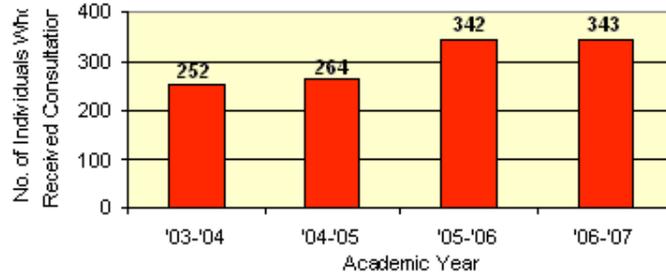
Figure 9. Consultations Offered

Figure 10. Individuals Who Received Consultations

Resources

Center staff developed or acquired and made available during 2006-2007 numerous resources on various topics of interest to faculty, staff, and graduate teaching assistants. These include:

- A number of videos on teaching and related topics that were checked out by faculty and graduate teaching assistants.

- Online resources on a number of topics posted on the Center's Web site.

The list of videos and the Instructional Guide can be found on the Center's Web site at http://www.niu.edu/facdev.

Apart from the previously mentioned resources, Center staff maintained the following computing facilities with the assistance of Michael Vannoy, Information Technology Coordinator at the Center, during 2006-2007:

- A twelve-station Windows-based Collaboratory with various general-purpose software, laser printers and scanners, a projection system for workshops and for faculty to experiment with a variety of instructional technologies.

- A six-station Digital Multimedia Studio where faculty can experiment with multimedia content and develop instructional materials (managed by Daniel Cabrera, Multimedia Coordinator at the Center).

- A Teaching Resource Room with books and videos, PC, TV, VCR and DVD player setup for faculty and teaching assistants to view instructional videos.

- A small conference room with a projection system for seminars and workshops.

- A small work group of 16 workstations for Center staff and graduate assistants.

- Four file servers: One is set up as a development server for the Program Registration Databases and file sharing. A second server is used as a testing environment and as a temporary backup system. The third server is for multimedia streaming video. The fourth server is used for programs and staff files.

- Eight PC laptops and four Mac laptops, five video-data projectors, and Smart Board are used to deliver workshops for faculty and staff all over campus. Center's Smart Board is located in the Instructional Technology Teaching Laboratory in Altgeld Hall Room 100. Center's smart classroom technology is located in the Collaboratory.

The Center's Collaboratory and Digital Multimedia Studio were regularly used by individual and small groups of faculty and supportive professional staff for experimentation as well as developing materials during 2006-2007.

Center staff moderated the following listservs which served as both informational and networking resources for faculty:

- New Faculty Virtual Forum

- Faculty Development and Instructional Design Center Listserv

- Graduate and Teaching Assistant Listserv

Center staff also posted information on other listservs on campus to disseminate information about Center's programs, grant opportunities, etc., and periodically issue news releases through Northern Today and other media resources at NIU.

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Publications and Presentations

Center's publications during 2006-2007 included the following newsletters every fall and spring:

- "Spectrum" newsletter for faculty and supportive professional.

- "TA Connections" newsletter for graduate teaching assistants.

The following is a list of presentations and publications by Center staff at various conferences, and professional meetings 2006-2007:

Rhode, J. (October 2006). The RSS revolution: Using blogs and podcasts to distribute learning content. Presented at the 2006 SLATE Conference, Chicago, IL.

Cabrera, D.M., Krishnamurthi, M., Rhode, J. (October 2006). Promoting responsible peer review and publishing through interactive e-learning experience. Poster presented at the Responsible Conduct of Research Expo, Quebec City, Quebec, Canada.

Krishnamurthi, M. and Rhode, J. (October 2006). Promoting academic integrity through an online module. Poster session presented at the 5th Global Engineering Education Colloquium in Rio de Janeiro, Brazil.

Cabrera D.M. (November 2006). Educational uses of a mobile device: I-Pods. Presented at the Midwest Cooperative Education and Internship Association Conference: A Century of Progress. Schaumburg, IL.

Cabrera, D.M., Krishnamurthi, M., Rhode, J. (April 2007). Promoting responsible conduct of research through online quick guides. Presented at the Teaching and Learning with Technology Conference, Purdue University, West LaFayette, Indiana.

Hodges, B.R. (April 2007). Assessing the forest through the trees: What do students gain from faculty development programs? Published in the proceedings of the Leading for the Common Good: The Higher Learning Commission Conference. Vo1. 1: pp. I-144--I-146. Chicago, IL.

Cabrera, D.M. (May 2007). Short focused online tutorials with Articulate. Presented at Faculty

Center's newsletters Spectrum and TA Connections

Summer Institute on Teaching Technologies. University of Illinois, Urbana-Champaign.

Cabrera, D.M. (May 2007). Audio/Video Podcasting for PC Users. Presented at Faculty Summer Institute on Teaching Technologies, University of Illinois, Urbana-Champaign, May 16, 2007.

Rhode, J. F. (May 2007). Introduction to social bookmarking. Presented at Faculty Summer Institute on Teaching Technologies. University of Illinois, Urbana-Champaign, May 15, 2007.

Rhode, J. F. (May 2007). Personal Learning Environments. Presented at Faculty Summer Institute on Teaching Technologies. University of Illinois, Urbana-Champaign, May 15, 2007.

Krishnamurthi, M. (May 2007). Religion Panel moderated at the 2007 Multicultural Curriculum Transformation Institute. Northern Illinois University, DeKalb, IL.

Cabrera, D.M., Krishnamurthi, M., Rhode, J. (June 2007). Promoting research mentoring and collaboration through Flash-based role simulation. Presented at the Ed-Media World Conference on Educational Multimedia, Hypermedia & Telecommunications. Vancouver, British Columbia, Canada.

Krishnamurthi, M. (July 2007). Evaluating real change using effective course assessment. Presented at the 2007 International Society for

Dan Cabrera and Jason Rhode present a poster at the Responsible Conduct of Research Expo at Quebec City, Canada

the Scholarship of Teaching and Learning Conference. Sydney, Australia.

Center Staff Development

Center staff attended many professional development programs during 2006-2007. Listed below is a sample of professional development activities in which Center staff participated outside NIU:

Jason Rhode attended SLATE Retreat at Goshen College, Goshen, IN on September 23, 2006.

Jason Rhode attended 2006 SLATE Conference at the University of Chicago on October 20, 2006.

Jason Rhode attended Midwest Blackboard User's Group (SLATE) meeting at Loyola University Chicago on April 18, 2007.

Brenda Hodges attended Leading for the Common Good: The Higher Learning Commission Conference in Chicago on April 20-24, 2007.

Murali Krishnamurthi attended "Course Redesign Institute" sponsored by the National Center for Academic Transformation at Austin, Texas on April 27, 2007.

Jason Rhode and Olga Urban attended the Midwest Blackboard User's Group (SLATE) meeting at Northern Illinois University on May 23, 2007.

Jason Rhode attended the Midwest Blackboard User's Group (SLATE) meeting at Robert Morris College on June 13, 2007.

Professional Service

Center staff served on numerous formal and informal committees, commissions, task forces, and groups at NIU and contributed their services.

The following list shows a sample of committees that Center staff served on during 2006-2007:

Murali Krishnamurthi:
- Academic Affairs Information Systems Committee
- Blackboard Technical Group
- Computing Facilities Advisory Committee
- Council of Deans
- Faculty Development Advisory Committee
- International Educator of the Year Awards Committee
- International Week Planning Committee
- Judson Baptist Fellowship (Faculty Advisor)
- Personnel Committee (Chair for 2006-2007), Department of Industrial and Systems Engineering
- Presidential Commission on the Status of Minorities
- Provost's Department Development Workshop Planning Group
- Provost's Task Force on Multicultural Curriculum Transformation
- Responsible Conduct of Scholarship Committee
- Society of Hispanic Professional Engineers (Faculty Advisor)
- USAID Project (Grow II Sri Lanka project) Advisory Committee member

Jason Rhode:
- Blackboard Administrative Team
- Blackboard Status Team

Carol Scheidenhelm:
- Blackboard Administrative Team
- Blackboard Status Team
- SPS Council, Chair, Communications Committee

Center staff also served on numerous groups outside of NIU. The following list shows a sample of service that Center staff served on during 2006-2007 that are outside of NIU:
- Baptist Campus Ministry Board of Directors (Murali Krishnamurthi)
- Chinese Kung-Fu Club of DeKalb, Faculty Advisor (Daniel Cabrera)

- DeKalb County Youth Service Board of Directors, Chair (Murali Krishnamurthi)
- International Visual Literacy Association, President (through October 2006), and Immediate Past President (Janet Giesen)

Assessment

Center's programs, resources, and services are assessed on a regular basis and the results are documented in the annual assessment report. Data collected as part of the assessment effort during 2006-2007 was analyzed by the Director, Program Coordinator and other staff at the Center to identify useful results to implement during 2006-2007 and subsequent years.

During fall 2006, Center staff recognized the need to collect feedback on program participants' perception of applicability to teaching and related activities, as well as potential impact on students. In an effort to assess valid indirect measures, Center staff redesigned the various evaluation forms into one standard eleven-question format that is used in all programs regardless of presenter, topic, or duration. The new evaluation form requests participants' feedback on program presentations, materials, and arrangements, as well as on potential applicability to participants' teaching and related activities, and potential benefit to students.

The redesigned evaluation form was used to gather feedback on *potential* applicability of programs to participants' teaching and related activities, and *potential* benefit to students. The redesigned form was implemented online and interfaced to a database with the help of Information Technology Services at NIU. Center staff also decided to assess participants' perceptions of *actual* applicability to participants' teaching and related activities, and *actual* benefit to students, and implemented a three-question evaluation form as a follow-up to the redesigned eleven-question evaluation form. The follow-up evaluation form was administered six-months after a faculty or staff had attended a major program or four months after a graduate teaching assistant had attended a program.

An initial assessment of the follow-up evaluation form distributed since fall 2006 indicates a good response rate and positive feedback for major teaching effectiveness programs with large

audiences. Participants of regularly scheduled technology integration workshops also indicated positive feedback that the programs were applicable in their teaching and related activities and benefited their students.

Advisory Committee

The Center would like to acknowledge the support of the members of the Faculty Development Advisory Committee during 2006-2007.

Committee members actively participated in the programs offered by the Center and reviewed faculty development grant proposals and Outstanding Teaching Award nominations. Faculty Development Advisory Committee's support has been invaluable to the Center. Committee members during 2006-2007 were:

- Byron Anderson, Professor, University Libraries
- David Ballantine, Associate Professor, Chemistry and Biochemistry
- Karen Carrier, Associate Professor, Literacy Education
- Karen Castelein, Counselor, Career Services
- Paula Frasz, Professor, Theatre and Dance (Committee Chair)
- Judith Hertz, Assistant Professor, Nursing
- Gyu Kim, Professor, Operations Management and Information Systems
- Andrew Otieno, Associate Professor, Technology
- Daniel Schneider, Professor, College of Law
- Joseph Scudder, Associate Professor, Communication

Center Staff

The following staff members served in full-time capacities at the Center during 2006-2007:

- Chigozie Achebe, Teaching Assistant Coordinator
- Daniel Cabrera, Multimedia Coordinator
- Amy Deegan, Secretary

Some of the Center staff with the Outstanding Contributions to International Education Award

- Janet Giesen, Instructional Design Coordinator

- Brenda Hodges, Program Coordinator

- Murali Krishnamurthi, Director

- Jason Rhode, Online Technologies Coordinator (Assistant Director after October 2006)

- Carol Scheidenhelm, Assistant Director (until September 2006)

- Olga Urban, Online Technologies Coordinator (beginning January 2007)

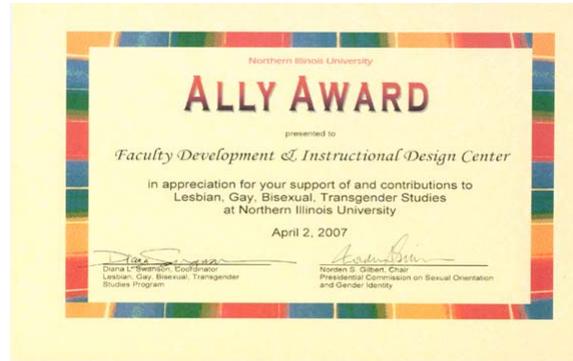- Mike Vannoy, Information Technology Coordinator

The following students and graduate assistants served in part-time capacities during 2006-2007 at the Center:

- Matthew Cabrera, Student Worker

- Anja Hartleb-Parson, Graduate Assistant

- Vijay Kancharla, Research Assistant

- Naveen Ramadugu, Graduate Assistant

Awards and Recognitions

During 2006-2007, Center staff achieved several personal and professional recognitions. Listed below is a summary of awards and recognition received by Center staff during 2006-2007:

- 2006 *Outstanding Contribution to International Education at NIU Award* in recognition of significant contributions toward internationalization at Northern Illinois University on November 16, 2006.

The Ally Award received by the Center for its support of and contributions to LGBT Studies

- 2007 *NIU Ally Award* in appreciation for support of and contributions to the Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, and Transgender Studies at Northern Illinois University on April 2, 2007.

- Janet Giesen was awarded a Supportive Professional Staff appreciation certificate on April 10, 2007.

- Chigozie Achebe received recognition award for working with graduate student presenters for the 16th Annual African American and Latino(a) American Research Symposium on April 21, 2007.

Acknowledgments

The information presented in this report was made possible by all the staff members at the Faculty Development and Instructional Design Center. Data on faculty and staff programs and registration were recorded by Amy Deegan and Brenda Hodges, and data on teaching assistant programs and registration were recorded by Chigozie Achebe.

Program participation data were collected and recorded by all staff members who delivered or coordinated programs at the Center.

Program evaluations data were recorded by Matthew Cabrera, and Web materials were posted by the graduate assistants at the Center. An initial draft of this annual report was prepared by Brenda Hodges, Program Coordinator at the Center.

Center staff would like to express their sincere appreciation to all academic and support units at NIU for their support during 2006-2007.