

MEMORANDUM

To: Prof. Alan Kraft, CELT Chair
Provost Austensen
From: Elise Alverson
Subject: Caterpillar Excellence in Teaching Award Report 2001

The Caterpillar Excellence in Teaching Award enabled the College of Nursing to sponsor a seminar on Creating Professional Presentations and Slides with Power Point. This seminar was held on February 14, 2002 and was available to all university faculty. Mary Puchalski MS, RNC, APN/ CNS from Loyola University was the presenter. She is a nationally recognized expert on this topic. This presentation was selected because several College of Nursing faculty had expressed a desire to create and incorporate Power Point presentations into their course work. This interactive presentation identified ways faculty could develop presentations that create a positive learning experience for their audience both in the classroom and at professional conferences. The seminar was well attended by the CON faculty and has been attributed to an increase in faculty development of power point applications. With the acquisition of new technology at the College of Nursing most faculty are now incorporating these presentations into their course work. In addition, faculty are now mentoring students in their development of these skills and requiring professional presentations for course work. Students have expressed that these teaching techniques are especially helpful to them.

The Caterpillar Funds also supported two nontenured faculty members, Suzanne Zentz and Patricia Hersberger, to attend the seminar "Putting the Critical into Critical Thinking" at the University of Chicago on April 12, 2002. This seminar focused on developing techniques and tactics necessary to create high-level analytical thinking in the classroom. Both faculty members found the seminar very beneficial in developing their teaching style allowing them to promote critical thinking while stimulating enthusiasm for gaining new knowledge. Furthermore, information from the seminar was shared with the CON faculty.

The Caterpillar Award was used to provide funding for development and enhancement of faculty teaching skills specifically in terms of critical thinking. Faculty have been stimulated to experiment with new methods to enhance students' educational experiences. Students will benefit from these innovative teaching strategies enhancing their educational experience. While students benefited immediately from these efforts, there will also be long-term effects.