

## 2017-2018 LEARNING COMMUNITIES

Call for proposals now open. Due Monday, April 17, 2017  
[oakland.edu/cetl/faculty-development](http://oakland.edu/cetl/faculty-development)

The Center for Excellence in Teaching and Learning is providing support for Learning Communities focusing on the scholarship of teaching and learning, enhancing student and/or faculty success.

### Learning Communities for the 2017-2018 academic year

Learning Communities (LCs) will form this spring/summer and will operate from September 2017- April 2018 (may select to run them during the summer). LCs may include faculty, professional staff, administrators and graduate students. LCs focus on Scholarship of Teaching and Learning (SoTL), enhancing student and/or faculty success.

### What is an OU Learning Community?

An OU Learning Community is an active, collaborative year-long program made up of 6-12 faculty, graduate students and professional staff who are interested in exploring a topic related to teaching and learning. LC members represent a variety of disciplines (cross-disciplinary interaction) who are willing to meet bi-weekly to explore the topic. Oakland Learning Communities will be led by a topic expert from OU's faculty. Some communities will be relevant and specific to faculty, while others will be inclusive including faculty, staff and students

### Goals of OU Learning Communities

- Faculty, staff and students sharing expertise to improve student learning and improve teaching
- Shared inquiry about a topic of mutual interest
- Building friendships and mentorships across disciplines
- Introducing new knowledge into the teaching environment
- Advance the scholarship of teaching and learning

### What kinds of topics can an OU Learning Community focus on?

All groups will engage in aspects of the Scholarship of Teaching and Learning (SoTL). SoTL recognizes teaching as scholarly work and encourages members to use research to better understand and improve their own teaching practices and how such work will improve learning across the campus. SoTL values the dissemination of work through such activities as presentations and scholarly articles. In addition, each topic/theme should address enhancing student/faculty success. Examples of topics might include:

*Problem-based learning, case study methods, mentoring undergraduate research, engaging students in large classes, effective methods for teaching adults, student learning through writing, critical thinking, service learning, high impact practices, study abroad, diversity, leading study abroad, among others*

### Attend the Workshop: Creating a New Learning Community

Wednesday, March 22

at 12:00-1:30 pm. Register at  
[oakland.edu/cetl/faculty-development/workshops](http://oakland.edu/cetl/faculty-development/workshops).

The workshop recording will be available in the "View Recording" link under PAST WORKSHOPS.

# OU Learning Communities

## The Scholarship of Teaching and Learning (SoTL) and Student/Faculty Success Applications due Monday, April 17, 2017

### What is involved in facilitating a OU Learning Community?

- Submit a proposal
- If accepted, seek membership and participation with assistance from CETL
- Organize regular sessions (approximately 2 times per month)
- Facilitate sessions
- Submit final report
- Share results of OULC with others on campus

### What can the support funding be used for?

Up to \$1,500 is available for the following:

- Support for books and materials related to the topic
- Support for travel to conference on learning community topic (or to teaching and learning conference)
- Support for travel for regional expert on the selected topic to come to OU
- Support for other activities may be available if approved

### What is required if I want to propose an OU Learning Community?

- **Due date for proposal submission: Monday, April 17, 2017**
- Agree to facilitate LC beginning in September 2017-April 2018
- Agree to share what you have learned in a campus forum what you did
- Complete a final report on the results of the learning community and how funds were used
- All information and submission forms are at [oakland.edu/cetl/faculty-development](http://oakland.edu/cetl/faculty-development)

### If I am currently leading an OU Learning Community, can I submit a proposal to continue the community for a second year?

Yes, a proposal can be submitted to continue a current learning community, but new objectives should be provided.