

Iowa State University
Scholarship of Teaching and Learning Scholars Program

Context:

- Public campus ~29,621 undergraduates, Ames, Iowa.
- Strategic plans emphasize student success and teaching excellence
- Program review recommended quantifying SoTL activity on campus annually (2009)
- SoTL Scholars Program dates back to 2014; SoTL coordinated and conducted through CELT since 1993

Purpose/Goals (from personal communication with ISU CELT Director and CELT website)

- The evolving body of research on learning has fostered new forms of inquiry into teaching, By better informing teaching, SoTL enhances student learning.
- To institutionalize the policy statement in the Faculty Handbook that SoTL is valued as much as disciplinary research at ISU (2006)

[https://www.provost.iastate.edu/sites/default/files/uploads/faculty%20resources/policies/Faculty%20Handbook%20-%20February%202019%20final%20\(002\).pdf](https://www.provost.iastate.edu/sites/default/files/uploads/faculty%20resources/policies/Faculty%20Handbook%20-%20February%202019%20final%20(002).pdf)

Model/Structure

- The purpose of the SoTL Scholars Program is development of a SoTL project.
- The year-long-experience will focus on writing research questions for classroom-based research, quantitative and qualitative assessment techniques, and the types of evidence that can be used to help answer SoTL research questions.
- Faculty participants receive guidance from the SoTL Faculty Fellow and fellow SoTL Scholars program participants.
- Application process in March; the cohort starts in May; and monthly topics are based on all the content listed above.
- Used to offer a stipend, but have since transitioned to a CELT presenter grant. This change was motivated by the fact that most people cannot complete and present on a project within one fiscal cycle; now participants have first preference of a \$1000 reimbursement for a presentation centered on SoTL

Leadership and Allies

- Strong support from the Senior Vice President and Provost Office
- Department chairs must sign off on SoTL Scholar participation
- Strong, generous community of SoTL scholars
- ISU Faculty Senate, as the SoTL language is present within the Handbook

Recognition and Rewards

- SoTL Scholars
- Publications and presentations count for P & T decisions
- Morrill Professorship which adds notoriety and prestige to recognized SoTL teaching excellence

Outcomes

- Created both formal and informal communities of practice.
- Network of SoTL practitioners
- Faculty revitalization at the individual level
- Support and momentum for further work
- Numerous publications/presentations
- SoTL scholars in leadership roles in organizations