

Reinert Center for Transformative Teaching and Learning

Academic Year At-a-Glance

2023-2024

The Paul C. Reinert, S.J. Center for Transformative Teaching and Learning is Saint Louis University's comprehensive teaching center. Rather than being created by administrative dictate as many teaching centers around the country are, the Reinert Center enjoys a somewhat unusual beginning by being formally established in 1997 by a group of faculty committed to scholarship *and* teaching. We serve all SLU faculty members, graduate students, academic leaders, and others who design and facilitate formal learning experiences for SLU students. We provide instructional and curriculum development programs and services, for individual instructors and for academic programs and departments.

Vision

The Reinert Center envisions Saint Louis University as a transformative learning community where all teachers and learners have access to meaningful, equitable, and engaging learning experiences.

Mission

The mission of the Reinert Center is to develop, encourage, and sustain Saint Louis University faculty, graduate students, and academic units as they create meaningful, inclusive learning experiences that serve the intellectual, spiritual, and socio-cultural needs of all learners.

To fulfill this mission, the Center:

- Partners with faculty and graduate students as they seek to find their own direction, meaning, and pedagogical style in the context of Jesuit educational traditions
- Partners with academic units as they seek to (re)design curricula and promote evidence-based practices in the context of Jesuit educational traditions
- Fosters communities of scholars across all career stages
- Provides leadership on educational initiatives at the University
- Promotes effective and accessible design for physical and virtual learning spaces
- Advances Ignatian, reflective, and evidence-based approaches to teaching, curriculum design, and the integration of technology into teaching

What Does the Reinert Center Do?

The Reinert Center offers a variety of programs and services for all faculty, instructors, and graduate students at Saint Louis University, in St. Louis and Madrid.

Programs include, but are not limited to: University Teaching Skills certificates, Ignatian Pedagogy Institute, Culturally Responsive Teaching Institute, Course Design Institute, Ignatian Teaching Fellowship, Inclusive Practice Grants, Communities of Practice, and more.

Services include, but are not limited to: teaching consultations, small group instructional feedback sessions (SGIFs), teaching observations, feedback on course materials, instructional design for distance courses, customized workshop services, and more.

Programmatic Highlights from the 2023-2024 Academic Year:

92

University Teaching Skills certificates: We offered four different certificates: Foundations, Principles, Online, and Practices to serve a variety of teaching needs and interests. Across these certificates, we served 92 participants, and awarded 20 certificates of completion.

112

Online Courses in Distance Teaching: We facilitated 10 online courses on different facets of effective distance teaching, impacting 112 faculty and graduate student instructor participants, including 62 completions of the Introduction to Distance Teaching, which prepares instructors to meet the University's Online Course Design Rubric for teaching distance courses.



Course Design Institute: Over the week of June 3-7, we lead instructors through an immersive experience helping them design new or redesign existing courses to be innovative, transformative learning experiences for students.



Culturally Responsive Teaching Institute: From July 31-August 2, we hosted this annual, week-long intensive program focused on building pedagogical capacity for teaching an increasingly diverse student body. While the Institute was designed with a focus on the particular needs of international and multilingual students, the framework is rooted in the research on learning-focused course design and instruction. Thus, the theories and methods underpinning the Institute create more inclusive learning experiences for a broad range of diverse learners.

Service and Resource Highlights from the 2023-2024 Academic Year:

- Invited into academic departments to facilitate workshops or conversations on more than **20** occasions
- Conducted 16 Small Group Instructional Feedback Sessions, which served 11 faculty and collected direct information from over **360** students
- Hosted and/or facilitated **90** events over the academic year, which brought in over **800** attendees (over 300 unique attendees) from 60 different departments.
- The Center published **21** blog posts and added **32** new or updated resources on teaching to our website.

Other highlights from the 2023-2024 Academic Year:

- Reinert Center staff pursued their own professional development by attending **over 60 conferences, workshops, and webinars**, including the POD Network conference, the Online Learning Consortium conference, and the American Association of Colleges and Universities.
- Director, Gina Merys, was named one of the 2024 Mary Bruemmer Women of the Year for her many contributions to the SLU community. Additionally, Gina completed the Ignatian Colleagues Program, and 18-month formation program for administrators and faculty in Jesuit Higher Education.