

St. Petersburg College's Critical Thinking Institute and the Florida Association on Higher Education and Disability (FL-AHEAD) present the

Eleventh Annual Narrowing the Gulf Conference

for Underrepresented Students in Postsecondary Education

March 18-19, 2010

Clearwater, FL

Call for Presenters

Proposals for presentations at the Eleventh Annual Narrowing the Gulf Conference for Underrepresented Students in Postsecondary Education are being accepted. This conference focuses on concepts, ideas and practical strategies that improve classroom instruction and support services for underrepresented students that, in turn, benefit all students. We are seeking proposals in the following areas:

Strand I: Disabilities

- Universal Design
- Understanding ADA and how to appropriately determine accommodations for students with disabilities
- Understanding learning disabilities
- Designing accessible online courses
- Math strategies for students with learning disabilities
- Connection between ADHD and addictive behavior
- ADHD and self-determination
- Working with students with psychiatric disabilities
- Understanding Asperger's Syndrome
- Language strategies for students with learning disabilities
- Working with specific disabilities, e.g. blind, deaf and hard of hearing, etc.
- Transitioning from high school to postsecondary and/or from community college to university
- Working with returning veterans disabled in war
- Reframing Disability Services and Strategic Planning

Strand II: Economic, Academic and Culturally Underrepresented Students

- Who is the "underrepresented" student – how does this impact your teaching?
- English as a Second Language – classroom techniques and strategies
- Diversity – understanding and appreciating cultural differences
- Diversity – strategies that enhance learning in a diverse setting
- Avoiding stereotyping
- Counseling and academic advisement for students
- Successful strategies in working with students with multiple barriers to success
- Recruitment and retention strategies
- Strategies for success in developmental classes
- Distance learning as a practical alternative for special needs students – strategies in course planning
- Sessions on specific underrepresented groups:
 - African-American males
 - Hispanic Americans/Latinos
 - Asians/Asian Americans
 - Native Americans
 - Economically disadvantaged



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Strand III: General Classroom Issues

- De-escalation strategies
- Understanding the adult learner – teaching strategies that work
- Diversity in the classroom
- Motivational techniques for marginal students
- Recruiting and retaining males
- Online classes – benefits, challenges and design strategies
- Dealing with difficult student behaviors
- Ethical considerations in decision making
- Stress management
- Career and life planning
- Civility in the classroom
- Developing a mentorship program
- Building a support system that leads to success for students
- Understanding learning differences
- Specific classroom techniques (reading, math, etc.) that help students learn
- Improving reading for adults
- Strategies that challenge students

Strand IV: Critical Thinking

- Discipline-specific strategies for teaching for critical thinking
- Innovative strategies for developing critical thinking skills in classroom and online teaching
- Teaching for critical thinking in career and technical education
- Incorporating critical thinking in Student Life Skills courses
- Assessing the success of teaching for critical thinking
- Increasing success of students with learning disabilities by teaching for critical thinking



"Narrowing the Gulf is very well planned, organized and delivered. Thank you! Congratulations on another success!"

Linda Scott
Girl Scouts Council
Tampa, FL

"Narrowing the Gulf is a perfect example of lifelong learning. I've been an educator for more than 30 years and I have learned many things from this conference."

Elaine Cope
Technical College of the
Low Country
Beaufort, SC

"I always get good ideas to take home. This has become my 'must attend' conference!"

Nancy Barlow
Brookhaven College
Long Branch, TX

"Narrowing the Gulf provided concrete information that can be translated into practice."

Amy Albee
Coordinator of Access and Equity
Florida Department of Education
Tallahassee, FL

This year's conference

This year's conference will be at the EpiCenter, a joint-use facility between St. Petersburg College and Pinellas County where professionals from business, government and academia come together to provide a unique blend of information and services. The EpiCenter houses SPC's Corporate Training Center, which provides innovative business solutions and training to meet the needs of businesses and individuals through credit and non-credit classes in professional development, technology, regulated industries, and business solutions. The EpiCenter also houses the 10,000-square-foot Collaborative Labs, where businesses can focus on planning, strategizing, problem-solving, and business development. Additionally, the EpiCenter has instructional space for several of SPC's high-tech, two-year programs, as well as the college's four-year Technology Management program. A block of rooms has been reserved for conference participants at the Holiday Inn Express, 13625 Icot Blvd., Clearwater, FL.

Though this newly renovated hotel is within walking distance of the conference site, transportation also will be provided for those who prefer to ride.

Room rates: \$119 per night plus tax; room rates include a hot breakfast each morning. Call **1-800-465-4329**, after Oct. 15, 2009, to ask for a reservation with the St. Petersburg College Narrowing the Gulf group rate.

The application for presenters is included in this document and can be faxed to **727-341-3242**, or sent via e-mail to **connell.peg@spcollege.edu**. Deadline for submission is Oct. 15, 2009. For further information, contact:

Peg Connell

Conference Coordinator
St. Petersburg College
P.O. Box 13489
St. Petersburg, FL 33733
727-341-3398



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Presenter application

Applications are
due by Oct. 15

Strand: _____ Topic: _____

Presentation title: _____

Presenter name: _____

Presenter title: _____

Organization: _____

Address: _____

City: _____

State: _____ ZIP: _____

Phone: _____ Fax: _____

E-mail address: _____

Additional presenter: _____

Title: _____

Additional presenter: _____

Title: _____

Brief description of proposal _____

Audio/visual requirements: DVD player LCD projector

Overhead projector Internet connection

Other _____

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