REGISTRATION FORM
Make check payable to EPCC and mail registration form to: El Paso Community College ATTN: Faculty Development Office P.O. Box 20500 El Paso, TX 79998-0500 Fax: 915-831-2738 Email: anar@epcc.edu

Name of Participant:

Teaching Area:

Please Reserve Place(s) for ___ (number of participants).

College:

College Address:

City: State:

Telephone:

Email:

Fax:___

Accommodations: [ ] Disabled access room

[ ] Pets: fee of $25 per night (please inform if you will be bringing more than one pet)

Roommate/Guest (if known):

Enclosed: (check as applicable)

$50 deposit for Seminar

$410 S.W. Seminar (shared room)

$510 S.W. Seminar with private room

Purchase Order #

Requests for early arrival/late departure:

Each additional night will be billed at $100 per night. Included in the room rates are all taxes, free Wi-Fi, and resort fees (use of exercise room, business center, pool, etc.). Requests for a disabled access room should be noted on the registration form. Please do not contact the hotel regarding lodging. We will add your name to the room block we have reserved for this Seminar.

Due to the unique nature of this Seminar, the total number of participants will be limited. Thus, colleges/individuals are encouraged to apply early, if at all possible. Individuals/colleges can reserve a place by including a $50 deposit with their registration form. To guarantee a place, we should receive your registration plus a $50 deposit or full payment by October 10, 2014. Unless prior arrangements have been made, all fees should be paid prior to the start of the Seminar. Refunds may be subject to a $10 handling fee. No refunds after October 10th. However, with prior notice, we can transfer your registration to another participant.

Space permitting, registration applications will be accepted until seven days prior to the start of the Seminar.

INFORMATION
For more information on the Seminar, contact:

El Paso Community College
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P.O. Box 20500
El Paso, Texas 79998-0500

(915) 831-2201
Fax: (915) 831-2738
Email: anar@epcc.edu

Or visit us at our website at: www.epcc.edu/facultydevelopment

OCTOBER 30-NOVEMBER 1, 2014
The seminar will open with an orientation session and dinner on the evening of the 30th and close with a luncheon at noon on November 1st.

REGISTRATION
In order to make the seminar accessible to all college teachers, we have endeavored to keep costs low. The total registration fee for the seminar is $410. This amount covers all registration fees, plus six delicious meals and two nights lodging at double occupancy. Private rooms are available for those who desire single occupancy and/or wish to bring a guest. A private room for the entire Seminar (two nights) is available for an additional $100. Participants who wish to arrive early, or extend their stay should make a note on the registration form. Rates for each additional night will be $100 per night. Included in the room rates are all taxes, free Wi-Fi, and resort fees (use of exercise room, business center, pool, etc.). Requests for a disabled access room should be noted on the registration form. Please do not contact the hotel regarding lodging. We will add your name to the room block we have reserved for this Seminar.

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The El Paso County Community College District does not discriminate on the basis of race, color, national origin, religion, gender, age, disability, veteran status, sexual orientation, or gender identity.
PHILOSOPHY

This seminar is based on the premise that college faculty are a rich resource that needs to be tapped via a format which encourages learning from each other. The Southwest Seminar for Great Teaching takes a participant-centered focus that allows those in attendance to determine much of the content.

THEME SESSIONS

This year’s theme session will begin with Thursday evening “home” groups, wherein participants will get acquainted and the group will be asked to demonstrate its “creativity” via a simple task. On Friday morning, the home groups will reconvene and participants can briefly share examples of how they have “thought outside the box.” Next, participants will join with other seminar participants in the formation of expert groups. In these expert groups, participants will tap their own experiences/knowledge. Trained facilitators will guide the expert group in the development of teaching tips, practical suggestions, and examples that address each group’s topic. Afterward, the participants will return to their original/home groups and report back on how their expert group addressed the topic at hand. Thus, all participants will eventually share in the knowledge generated by each expert group. Below are abbreviated descriptions of the topics under consideration for the “expert groups”:

1. De-briefing: Post Evaluative Learning Techniques - What are your feedback techniques when it comes to exams, tests, or other assignments? For instance, how do you de-brief when returning exams? How do you prepare students for this activity? Also, how do you evaluate your de-briefing? How do you allow your students to brainstorm ideas?
2. Getting the Bridge to the Classroom - What do you do to help “jump start” your class and re-charge interest in the course material once the initial excitement has worn off? How do you create an environment that is conducive to classroom participation?
3. Creative Approaches to Promoting Critical Thinking - What are your creative approaches to encouraging collegiality and relaxation. Thus, we have arranged for the following optional/alternative activities:
   a. On Creating an Environment that Encourages Classroom Participation - How do you create an environment that is conducive to classroom participation?
   b. 4th Activities - What are your methods for establishing rapport with and among your students?

THEME SESSIONS CONTINUED

4. Thinking Outside the Box: Fostering Creativity in Our Students - What is your definition of creativity? In what ways do you allow your students to “be creative” on their assignments? How do you encourage creativity? How do you get your students to brainstorm ideas?
5. Bridging the Gap with Our Communities: Using Life’s Teaching Stories - Incorporating one’s own experiences into the classroom demonstrates the connection between real life and course content. What is one of your favorite teaching stories? Come to this session prepared to share a 2-3 minute teaching story.
6. Early College High School Students: Do’s and Don’ts - If you have experience teaching classes with ECHS students then come prepared to share your do’s and don’ts.

BREAKOUT SESSIONS

A second set of breakout sessions will be based on issues that arose during the opening theme session. Seminar facilitators will be listening for recurring themes/issue that arose during the theme session. These issues, plus any others suggested by the participants, will form the basis for the closing set of workshops.

ADDITIONAL ACTIVITIES

We believe that a seminar should provide an environment that encourages collegiality and relaxation. Thus, we have arranged for the following optional/alternative activities:

1. How to Prepare Students for Classroom Success - What do you do to help your students be successful in your classes? How do you promote good textbook reading, note/test taking skills, etc.?
2. Getting and Keeping the Class Going - What are those activities that you use to “jump start” your class and re-charge interest in the course material once the semester is underway?
3. Non-threatening Approach - Participants will share examples that address each group’s topic. Afterward, the participants will return to their original/home groups and report back on how their expert group addressed the topic at hand. Thus, all participants will eventually share in the knowledge generated by each expert group. Below are abbreviated descriptions of the topics under consideration for the “expert groups”:
4. How to Prepare Students for Classroom Success - What do you do to help “jump start” your class and re-charge interest in the course material once the initial excitement has worn off? How do you create an environment that is conducive to classroom participation?
5. Getting the Bridge to the Classroom - What do you do to help “jump start” your class and re-charge interest in the course material once the initial excitement has worn off? How do you create an environment that is conducive to classroom participation?
6. De-briefing: Post Evaluative Learning Techniques - What are your feedback techniques when it comes to exams, tests, or other assignments? For instance, how do you de-brief when returning exams? How do you prepare students for this activity? Also, how do you evaluate your de-briefing? How do you allow your students to brainstorm ideas?

WHAT TO EXPECT

Feedback from previous participants indicates that the Seminar produces results on several levels. On a practical level, much information concerning teaching techniques, programs, etc. is shared among participants. As this is a regional seminar that often involves many colleges, networking is a major result. The professional “spirit of corps” which characterizes seminars causes participants to leave with a sense of renewed enthusiasm for their profession and the people who are part of it. The following comments from previous seminar participants provide an insight into the results one can expect:

“I was the best seminar/conference I’ve ever attended because of the mutual sharing of ideas and the loosely structured, non-threatening approach.”

“This is the only meeting of this kind where I go home so enthusiastic and refreshed.”

“What a thought-provoking experience!”

“I will do a better job in the classroom due to my participation in this seminar.”

“I feel excited and renewed, this seminar made me realize how much I love this profession.”

“I’m glad I came…excited over the new techniques I have learned and am anxious to tell my colleagues.”

“The collegial sharing was terrific…I feel that I’ve gained a great deal from meeting people from all over the Southwest. The seminar gets an A; thanks for a great experience.”

“Excellent forum for interfacing with colleagues.”

“It was so refreshing to be with like- minded folks; we talked about many topics that are generally ignored.”

“Excellent forum for interfacing with colleagues.”

“I came away feeling I have gained a great deal from the conference.”

“Excellent forum for interfacing with colleagues.”

“Excellent forum for interfacing with colleagues.”

“Excellent forum for interfacing with colleagues.”

“I was pleasantly surprised.”

“I had attended on numerous occasions and have always been pleased with what I garnered from the involvement.”

TRANSPORTATION

Santa Fe is located approximately one hour north of Albuquerque, New Mexico. The nearest major airport is in Albuquerque. We can provide information and rates for the several shuttle services and the Rail Runner train running from Albuquerque to Santa Fe. The Inn at Loretto charges a fee of $10 per day per vehicle for parking. Thus, participants are encouraged to carpool or use the various shuttle services. Options at the Inn participants can easily walk to the plaza, galleries, museums, etc.