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Writing Curriculum Expert Speaks at Faculty Meeting

Faculty will hear from an internationally recognized leader in writing across the curriculum during the Fall Faculty Meeting scheduled for Friday, August 22.

Kathleen Blake Yancey, PhD, is the Hunt Professor of English and Director of the Graduate Program in Rhetoric and Composition at Florida State University. Currently president of the National Council of Teachers of English, Yancey is the lead researcher for a study of writing, titled “The Portraits of Composition.”

Norine Noonan, PhD, vice regional chancellor for academic affairs, said “We thought it would be both interesting and informative to have her come speak because writing is so important. She’ll talk with our faculty about the notion of assessment of writing and how it has changed over the course of time.”

The meeting takes place in the CAC from 11 a.m. – 1 p.m.

Yancey’s presentation will come at the end of a week featuring faculty workshops focused on creating competency-centered syllabi and exploring innovative methods for outcome assessment.

College of Arts & Science faculty will participate in a workshop led by Lisa Starks-Estes, PhD, and Morgan Gresham, PhD, both professors in the Department of Languages, Literature and Writing. This workshop will explore how to shift syllabi from a content-centered approach toward a competency-centered one. These course syllabi workshops will take place in a computer lab to give faculty time to incorporate this approach into current syllabi.

“This also is an opportunity for faculty to talk with one another about how their courses fit together,” Noonan said. “They can see how the learning outcomes in individual courses fit together in a broader assessment framework that doesn’t only focus on course outcomes, but rolls them up into program outcomes as well as overall student learning outcomes for general education.”

Three workshop dates are scheduled on August 18 and 21 from noon – 3 p.m., and August 19 from 3 – 5 p.m, all in DAV253.

A presentation on August 20 by Zafer Unal, PhD, assistant professor in the College of Education, will demonstrate the use of e-portfolios as a method of outcomes assessment.

"The power of the portfolio idea is something that faculty could do and that we have the technology to do now," Noonan said.

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