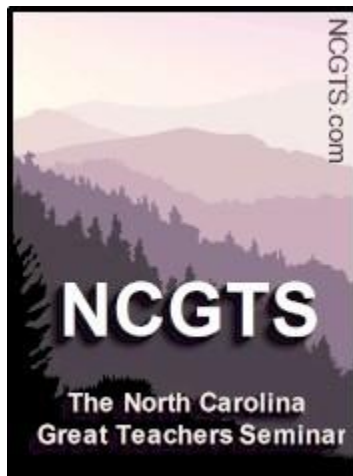


The 21st Annual North Carolina Great Teachers Seminar!



Seminar Summary

Submitted by Steve Smith, NCGTS Director

The 21st Annual North Carolina Great Teachers Seminar (NCGTS) was held February 20-23, 2014 at the Kanuga Conference Center near Hendersonville, North Carolina. 1st Person Seminars Higher Education Consulting, LLC coordinated this professional development event for NC community college faculty statewide. The NCGTS continues to be run as a self-supported event without commercial or outside business vendors.

SEMINAR LEADERS AND PARTICIPANTS

Steve Smith was the Seminar Director. Assisting Steve were North Carolina community college faculty members (*and NCGTS Staff*) Ellen Bland (Central Carolina Community College), Jan Graham (Mayland Community College), and Kay Crouch (Caldwell CC & Technical Institute-*retired*), Nancy Posey (Caldwell CC & Technical Institute), and Robert Doyle (Wilkes Community College).



DEMOGRAPHICS

Forty-one (41) faculty members & staff representing sixteen (16) community colleges participated in the Seminar. The range of experience included first year faculty to those with over 30 years of experience. Disciplines from all areas of the college were represented, including English, Economics, Global Logistics, Business/Organizational Behavior, Psychology Communication, Electronics / Engineering, Nursing, Law, Western Civilizations and World History, English & Humanities, Health Science, Spanish, Education, Business, ACA / Instructional Technology, Early Childhood Education, Psychology and American Government, Communication & Theatre, Music, Physical

Education, Social Sciences, AND, Life Science, Health Education, Information Technology & Business, Reading, Critical Thinking, Biology, Mathematics, Computers, and Workforce & Economic Development

The following North Carolina community colleges were represented at the Seminar:

- Caldwell Community College
- Wake Technical Community College
- Forsyth Technical Community College
- Central Piedmont Community College
- Coastal Carolina Community College
- Wilkes Community College
- Sandhills Community College
- Richmond Community College
- Trident Technical College (South Carolina)
- Cape Fear Community College
- Roane State CC (Tennessee)
- Isothermal Community College
- Central Carolina Community College
- Mayland Community College
- McDowell Technical Community College
- Southeastern Community College

SCHEDULE AND ACTIVITIES

The NCGTS opened Thursday evening with an introduction to the seminar history, purpose and philosophy. The participants introduced one another, avoiding mention of their college, discipline, and/or teaching field.

Friday morning was devoted to small group discussions of the innovation papers prepared by participants, and later that afternoon focused on discussions of the educational problems and problem solving. The “tricks of the trade” were presented in a large group session on Friday evening.

During the small group discussions on Friday, the Seminar staff identified topics in which there was a great deal of interest. On Saturday morning, participants reviewed the list of topics and voted on those they wished to discuss further. The selections included the following:

- The Student’s Responsibility in the Learning Process
- Balancing Technology in the Classroom
- Making It Fun
- Using Small Groups
- “The Open Door”: Removing Barriers

- Classroom Management
- Making it Real & Personal (*real-life stuff in the classroom*)
- Teacher Retention

The topic sessions were held on Saturday morning in more traditional, conference –style sessions. Participants engaged in a positive, solutions-based discourse of teaching methods, strategies, and teaching innovations. Saturday afternoon was an opportunity for participants to individualize the seminar—some reviewed their notes and reflected on their learning, while others gathered together in special interest sessions. Some hiked around the Kanuga grounds while others visited the Carl Sandburg Home or other local sites in and around the Asheville/Hendersonville area.

Saturday evening’s session focused on three faculty who were new to teaching. Participants shared their thoughts and advice for successful teaching and responded to questions from those new to classroom teaching. An innovative classroom “sorting” technique was demonstrated and afterwards, participants enjoyed the seminar’s final social event and casual conversation!

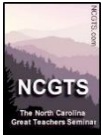
Sunday morning closed the seminar with group presentations on the nature of “The Great Teacher”—all of which were profound representations of the art and spirit of teaching. The final closing circle gave each person an opportunity to express what he or she was taking home from the seminar. In addition to the structured Seminar activities, participants found time to share ideas and thoughts during meals, early morning walks around the wooded grounds of the Kanuga Conference Center, and in late night discussions. Many participants stretched themselves through new activities of various kinds.

INSPIRATIONAL BOOKS

The following books were available throughout the seminar period (the infamous *Great Teachers Browsing Library*) for perusal by participants and were furnished by the participants themselves as part of the Seminar format.

- **Back to the Lake** - Thomas Cooley
- **Teaching in Nursing: A Guide for Faculty** - Diane M. Billings, Judith A. Halstead
- **McKeachie’s Teaching Tips, 13th ed.** - Marilla Svinicki, Wilbert J. McKeachie
- **The Violinist’s Thumb** - Sam Kean
- **College Student Success, 4th ed.** - James A. Bazan, Linda J. Dunham
- **Classroom Assessment Techniques** - Thomas A. Angelo K. Patricia Cross
- **Crossing the Generational Divide from Boomers to Zoomers** - Robert Wendover
- **The Miniature Guide to Critical Thinking** - Richard Paul, Linda Elder
- **“Sit and Get” Won’t Grow Dendrites** - Marcia L. Tate

- **Lives on the Boundary** - Mike Rose
- **Willpower** - Roy F. Baumeister John Tierney
- **Multipliers: How the Best Leaders Make Everyone Smarter** - Liz Wiseman
- **Math for Life** - Jeffrey Bennett
- **Creating Significant Learning Experiences** - L. Dee Fink
- **The Numbers Game: The Common Sense guide to Understanding Numbers in the News, in Politics, and in Life** - Michael Blastland, Andrew Dilnot
- **Get Ready for A&P** - Lori K. Garrett - Janet Fisher, et al
- **A Story for Bear** - Dennis Haseley, Jim LaMarche



For the most up-to-date information about the North Carolina Great Teachers Seminar, visit <http://ncgts.com>. The 22nd Annual NCGTS is scheduled to be held February 19-22, 2015! 1st Person Seminars Higher Education Consulting, LLC may be contacted at +1.910.280.3247 or on the web at <http://1stpersonseminars.com>.