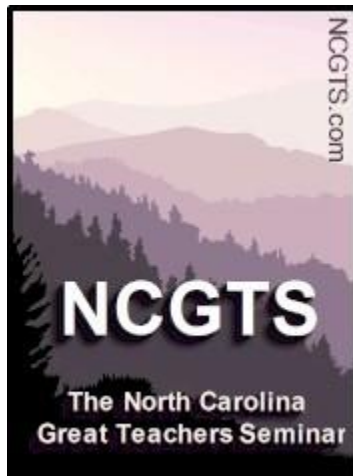


The 22nd Annual North Carolina Great Teachers Seminar



Seminar Summary

Compiled by Steve Smith

1st Person Seminars Higher Education Consulting, LLC

The 22nd Annual North Carolina Great Teachers Seminar (NCGTS) was held February 19-22, 2015 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 or interests.

SEMINAR LEADERS AND PARTICIPANTS

Ellen Bland (*Central Carolina CC*) served as the Seminar Director assisted by Jan Graham (*Mayland CC*). Assisting Ellen and Jan included community college faculty members (*and NCGTS Staff*) Kay Crouch (*Caldwell CC & TI, retired*), Stephen Walker (*Southside Virginia CC*), Chuck Bowling (*McDowell Technical CC*), Tiffany Suetos (*Coastal Carolina CC*), and Mike Crum (*Coastal Carolina CC*).



DEMOGRAPHICS

Forty-four (44) faculty members & staff representing nineteen (19) 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 History, Communications, Spanish, Mathematics, Management and Business Technologies, Biology and Chemistry, Anatomy and Physiology, Psychology,

Sociology, English Composition, Health Sciences/Dental Hygiene, Allied Health Department/Medical Sonography, Geography, Health Education, Developmental English, Anatomy, Magnetic Resonance Imaging, Reading, Critical Thinking, Associate Degree Nursing, Music, Electrical/HVAC, Medical Sonography, Religion, Office Technology, Refrigeration, Early Childhood Education, and Law.

The following community colleges were represented at the Seminar. All are North Carolina colleges unless otherwise noted.

- Caldwell Community College
- Forsyth Technical Community College
- Century College (Minnesota)
- Central Piedmont Community College
- Vance-Granville Community College
- Coastal Carolina Community College
- Pitt Community College
- Sandhills Community College
- Trident Technical College (South Carolina)
- Central Virginia Community College (Virginia)
- College of DuPage (Illinois)
- Cape Fear Community College
- Isothermal Community College
- Central Carolina Community College
- Mayland Community College
- McDowell Technical Community College
- Southside Virginia Community College
- Randolph Community College
- Southeastern Community College

SEMINAR SCHOLARSHIP RECIPIENTS



This year, there were two NCGTS participants that were awarded scholarships by the **North Carolina Community College Faculty Association** to attend the NCGTS.

Pictured here are (l-r) Nancy White from Coastal Carolina CC and Maria LeBaron from Randolph CC. We appreciate the support that the NCCCFA has provided the NCGTS since 1999!

This year, Nancy and Maria will be presenting their experience from the seminar at the 2015 fall NCCCFA conference. For more information, visit their [website](#).

Additionally, Shelia Harris from Southeastern CC was awarded the **Mer Linney NCGTS Scholarship** by 1st Person Seminars Higher Education Consulting, LLC.



Merilyn Linney was an accounting instructor at Guilford CC in Greensboro, NC and a long time NCGTS Staff Facilitator. In the fall of October 2011 shortly before her retirement, Mer passed away suddenly and unexpectedly... a tremendous loss for her family and the NCGTS.

As a result, the 2013 NCGTS Staff decided to start the Mer Linney NCGTS Scholarship fund that will pay seminar tuition annually for a full-time, credit or non-credit faculty member from the NC Community College System. Scholarship requests for the 2016 NCGTS can be made <http://ncgts.com>. **Deadline for the 2016 seminar application is September 30, 2015.**

SCHEDULE AND ACTIVITIES

The NCGTS opened Thursday evening with a brief introduction to the seminar, 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:

- Student Responsibility/Accountability
- Light my Fire: Engage, Energize, and Inspire Students
- From "Sage on the Stage" to "Guide on the Side"
- "Byte Me:" Using Technology to Enhance Learning
- "Un-Byte Me:" "Old School" Low-Tech Active Learning
- Thinking About Thinking

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. Many participants visited local sites and areas of interest 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, music from the "homegrown" GT band, and casual conversation.

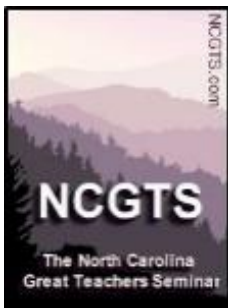
Sunday morning closed the seminar with group presentations on the nature of "The Great Teacher"—all of which were profound representations of the art and spirit of teaching. The final closing circle gave each person an opportunity to express what he or she was taking home from the seminar. In addition to the structured Seminar activities, participants found time to share ideas and thoughts during meals, early morning workout sessions (yes, Great Teachers exercise), 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.

- *Made to Stick*, Chip Heath and Dan Heath, ISBN 978-1-4000-6428-1
- *The Secret Life of Bees*, Sue Monk Kidd, ISBN 0-670-89460-5
- *On Teaching and Learning*, Jane Vella, ISBN 978-0-7879-8699-5
- *What Great Teachers Do Differently*, Todd Whitaker, ISBN 978-1-59667-199-7
- *What the Best College Teachers Do*, Ken Bain, ISBN 0-674-01325-5
- *Chew Toy of the Gnat Gods*, Bruce Lombardo, ISBN 0-87797-273-7
- *Magic Trees of the Mind*, Marian Diamond and Janet Hopson, ISBN 0-525-94308-0
- *Or Perish*, Joel Quam, ISBN 10: 0-87839-328-5
- *Tuesdays With Morrie*, Mitch Albom, ISBN 978-0-385-48451-0
- *Mindset: A New Psychology of Success*, Carol S. Dweck, ISBN 978-0-345-47232-8
- *A Learning College for the 21st Century*, Terry O'Banion, ISBN 1-57356-113-4
- *Clinical Teaching Strategies in Nursing*, Kathleen B. Gaberson, et al, ISBN 978-0-8261-1961-2
- *Teaching Spanish*, Wilga Rivers, et al, ISBN 0-8442-7605-7
- *The 7 Laws of the Leaner*, Bruce Wilkinson, ISBN: 1590524527; ISBN-13: 9781590524527
- *The Joy of Teaching*, Peter Fliene, ISBN 978-0-8078-5603-1

- *Verbal Judo: The Gentle Art of Persuasion*, George J. Thompson and Jerry Jenkins, ISBN 0-06-057765-7
 - *How to Study and Learn a Discipline*, Richard Paul and Linda Elder, ISBN 0-944583-11-3
 - *The Heart of Higher Education: A Call to Renewal*, Parker Palmer and Arthur Zajonc, ISBN 978-0-470-48790-7
 - *The Spirit and Intent of the National Great Teachers Movement*, David B. Gottshall (1997)
 - *Journey of Joy: Teaching Tips for Reflection, Rejuvenation, and Renewal*, Patty H, Phelps, Magna Publication
 - *Jest for Fun-The World According to Student Bloopers*, Richard Lederer, Health Professions Institute, Perspectives, May 2009
 - *The Art of Teaching: Best Practices from a Master Educator*, Patrick N. Allitt
 - *25 Days to Better Thinking and Better Living*, Linda Elder and Richard Paul, ISBN 13: 978-0-13-173859-1
 - *Team-Based Learning*, Larry Michaelsen, et al, ISBN: 0-89789 863-X
 - *Learning to Think Things Through*, Gerald Nosich, ISBN 10: 0-13-7085141-1
 - *Contemplative Practices in Higher Education*, Daniel P. Barbezat and Mirabai Bush, ISBN 978-1-118-43527-4
 - *Teaching Spanish-A Practical Guide*, Wilga Rivers, et al, ISBN 0-8442-7605-7
 - *How To Improve Student Learning*, Richard Paul and Linda Elder, ISBN 0-944-583-12-1
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For the most up-to-date information about the North Carolina Great Teachers Seminar, visit <http://ncgts.com>. The 23rd Annual NCGTS is scheduled to be held February 2016. 1st Person Seminars Higher Education Consulting, LLC may be contacted at +1.910.280.3247 or on the web at <http://1stpersonseminars.com>.