

## **SENCER E-News for November 5, 2008**

### **SSI 2009 Applications Now Online!**

SSI 2009 will be held from August 6-10<sup>th</sup> and will be hosted by Harold Washington College (Chicago, IL) and the SENCER Center for Innovation-Midwest. We invite applications from teams and individual educators, administrators and students interested in learning more about the SENCER approach and how to improve courses and programs in science, technology, engineering, and mathematics (STEM). Participation is by invitation only, and anyone interested in attending must submit an application, even if they have already attended a previous Institute.

The Institute will include plenary sessions, concurrent sessions, and colloquia designed to introduce participants to SENCER and the approaches used to infuse civic engagement into courses and programs, as well as opportunities for SSI alumni to report on new and advanced campus-based implementations. A special session will focus on the work of SENCER alumni in the Chicago area, where several colleges and universities have successfully implemented courses and programs on a variety of topics for students majoring both in the STEM subjects and other disciplines.

Each Summer Institute program has featured half-day workshops that allow participants to intensively concentrate on topics of particular interest. Past sessions, which have generally been scheduled immediately before or after the main program time, have focused on such topics as writing intensive courses, grant writing, public health, critical thinking, and course design. This year, the workshops will be included in the general Institute program on Sunday, August 9<sup>th</sup> to allow all participants to take part, regardless of travel schedules.

To take advantage of the rich history, culture, and architecture of Chicago, SENCER will coordinate optional activities around the city for participants and their families. More information will be available to participants in the spring, following invitations.

All Institute activities will take place in downtown Chicago in the Harold Washington College building and the SSI 2009 hotel, the Palmer House Hilton. For more details on the program schedule and links to applications, please visit <http://www.sencer.net/Institutes/summerinst09.cfm>. Applications must be submitted by March 2, 2009 to be considered for participation. If you have any questions about SENCER or the Summer Institute, please don't hesitate to contact us by calling (202) 483-4600 or emailing [sencer@sencer.net](mailto:sencer@sencer.net).

### **Leadership Fellows Webpages Launched**

SENCER has added a new feature to [www.sencer.net](http://www.sencer.net) to familiarize the community with the work of the 76 SENCER Leadership Fellows elected in July 2008. Visitors to the site can now access webpages on each Fellow by clicking on the 'Current Fellows' text on the main Leadership Fellows page, at <http://www.sencer.net/About/fellows.cfm> (under About SENCER). From here, users will be able to click on individual names to access personalized pages with biosketches, CVs, areas of interest and expertise, SENCER activities and affiliations, and a summary of what each person plans to do during his or her fellowship. We encourage all members of the SENCER community to visit this page to learn what the Fellows are doing and to contact the Fellows regarding their work. To facilitate regional connections and collaborations, the SENCER Center for Innovation affiliations are also listed for each Fellow.

### **SSI 2008 Post-Institute Implementation Awards Update**

The review process for the sub-awards, meant to support on-campus applications of the SENCER approach, has been completed. For the past month, SENCER staff members have engaged in conversations with all applicants to go over comments from the review panel and we are now in the final stages of issuing the awards. In the next issue of the E-News we plan to

feature the names of the institutions receiving the sub-grants and brief descriptions of each project.

### **Job Openings**

#### Director, Whitaker Center for STEM Education at Florida Gulf Coast University (Associate Professor/Professor)

The director of the Whitaker Center for STEM education is the leader of a center devoted to innovation and reform of STEM education at all levels. The director is responsible for implementing the goals and objectives designed to achieve the center's mission within the broader university setting. In this capacity, the director must work collaboratively with administrators, a national advisory board, and faculty from multiple colleges, school districts, and external agencies to design, develop, manage, and evaluate programs that support the mission. A major responsibility of this position involves working with local, state, and national agencies and groups to procure support and funding for Whitaker Center initiatives. The director will collaborate with the Whitaker Eminent Scholar to foster synergy between teaching and research.

Please visit <http://jobs.fgcu.edu> and access Req #910 to apply. The position is open until filled, however; review of materials will begin on December 15<sup>th</sup>. Candidates should have a doctorate, experience in STEM education at the university level, knowledge/experience in STEM education reform, administrative experience, and experience in both interdisciplinary teaching and grant writing.

### **Funding and Award Opportunities**

#### The 2009 Tech Awards

The Tech Museum in San Jose (located just across the street from the SSI 2008 hotel, The Fairmont) is now accepting nominations for its annual awards. The program "inspires global engagement in applying technology to humanity's most pressing problems by recognizing individuals, organizations, and companies that are utilizing innovative technology solutions to address the most urgent issues facing our planet." Nominations for the award must be received by March 27, 2009. Please visit <http://www.techawards.org/nominate/> to learn more about the categories for nominations and to submit a nomination online.