

**TCCTA 2009 Great Teaching Roundup Evaluation Form**  
**Canyon of the Eagles, Burnet, Texas**  
**May 18-21, 2009**

*What valuable insights did you gain from this year's Great Teaching Roundup?*

Great advice and strategies for my first year.

I learned several great teaching tips. I also discovered that all of us have the same problems and concerns. I had a great time.

Too many to list! I got so many new ideas for successes and several options for challenges. The technology ideas and updates on existing tech was helpful too.

As I pause to think back over the past few days, I find that I will take home with me some new insights. I have found that regardless of the discipline, we all face some of the same challenges. As a student comes to us from high school, they do face a learning curve and we can be supportive of them, but it is their learning curve not ours.

Motivation for me and how to motivate my students.

A lot of great advice, good mentorship, and fun.

Ideas for keeping students motivated; ideas for engaging students in class; ideas for "fun" activities.

I learned/gained some new ways to connect with students and broke down some of my resistance to the Web 2.0 technologies.

I am taking back several teaching ideas and I am looking forward to reading several of the suggested books.

This year's Round-up gave me the motivation necessary to keep on improving my teaching techniques through technology, better discipline and more creative ways of presenting.

Too numerous to name, but from the first year to over 20 years in the business, they have all been there BUT willing to try other things.

Texas has great teachers. Tech is moving very fast and we need better networking to help each other.

Tech in class – clickers

There are so many "nuggets" that I will carry with me. Especially on student motivation and attendance. The relationships and interaction with other faculty is phenomenal!

“The goal is to win the war. The objective is how you go about doing it.” – Clint

1. “Don’t do for one student what you wouldn’t be willing to do for all of them.” 2. The explanations about the different cultures was insightful. 3. It was interesting to discover the differences between campus policies regarding teachers dating/interacting with students.

The three-day seminar confirms again that teaching at a community college is to take the challenge of transforming students from being “dualistic” to “relativist” learners (William Perry).

I learned: 1. That I am not alone in my struggles and successes. 2. To share my true self with confidence.

Since this is year #2, I knew what to expect and questions to ask. There are more valuable insights within small discussions that I cannot even begin to list. But the 2 most important for me were instilling a passion for working with students and student motivation techniques.

Insights into all the new technology available for educators. Picked up on great teaching techniques.

Other ways teachers teach in classroom. Learn about success and struggles others have – just as same as mine.

Everything!

So many good tips and strategies! I can’t wait to try them. and the collegiality was wonderful – it’s always great to talk and share with other dedicated teachers!

More than I can list. Most importantly, I met many people who I can call on for a variety of different tools and I will!

Way to many to list!

I got some great teaching tips and some great reading suggestions. By learning how other campuses tackle situations we all face, I will leave with some new ideas to try.

***What changes to the Roundup would you like to see?***

The Round-up allowed us to choose the topics and where comments were exhausted we could move on, this is something that does not need to be changed. It works!

More time for breaks to allow for sight seeing and REST.

The group should be kept to 28-32 participants. I was disappointed that many did not bring printed copies of their teaching successes. I also thought this was for faculty only – one woman kept referring to “her faculty.” I felt that some faculty were hesitant to speak in front of her.

I can't think of any changes that I would suggest to the Round-up. I have learned so much.

A little more salad type foods, and maybe some limitations on time discussing books.

A little more "free time" please – better lunch and dinner options.

More fresh vegetables; less fried food; clearer guidelines for how to dress; more specific description of the facilities; need tables for discussions; more covered areas for meetings.

More affordable – scholarships?

Personally, I would prefer a less remote resort with more activities available in our free time. Also, it would help to be more specific on the website so that potential participants know what to expect.

During the Round-up sessions it would help if the facilitators monitored the conversations a little better. There were a few educators who got carried away with their specific disciplines.

If such rustic environs again, the armadillos were fun, but the idea of snakes made visiting with colleagues at night apprehensive.

None – X2

Access to online components discussed at GTR – i.e. Second Life, use of clickers, websites, etc...

A little more control from facilitators when the same people go long – especially in just their disciplines or when 2-4 of the same discipline monopolize a group. The book session optional please!

I don't know.

It would be more conducive to taking notes if the groups could meet around tables. Keep the size of the groups to seven or eight. In my two groups that talked about successes – three of us were the same so I only got to her from 13 different people. I would have enjoyed many more, maybe a third group.

Nothing except opportunities to discuss institutional issues such as teaching load, extra work compensation, and administrative structures that have great impact on teaching and learning.

Less time in evening meetings – more leisure activities to relax in the evening; i.e. sunsets!

Well – I would think that next year a combination of the meeting rooms and hotel rooms from T Bar M resort paired with the food would make a really good experience.

All the activities and exercises were excellent, but just too many in a day.

No evening session every day; maybe just one or two, but not all 3 days. Break up into content areas for one day and do teaching demo.

Better WiFi in the meeting areas and rooms

Not many. Toward the end of the 3<sup>rd</sup> session and the 4<sup>th</sup> session on Wednesday, the energy waned. Can we do something to keep it up? If not, it's OK.

Can't think of any other than a location that had consistent internet.

I'd like just a little more free time each day to be able to fill in gaps in my notes or to jot my own ideas down after the sessions.

***Comments about facilities:***

Canyon of the Eagles Lodge gave the group a relaxing, natural setting for us to unwind from pressures of teaching, yet allowed us to have nice meeting rooms, dining facilities and comfortable sleeping quarters.

Awesome! WiFi was a plus! Relaxing atmosphere and polite staff.

I wasn't expecting semi-campground accommodations. No place for clothes or personal effects (such as a desk) was surprising. Needed more details on what to bring (i.e. – a flashlight).

Beautiful setting. Accommodating Staff. Friendly and helpful.

Very nice. Just needed more shadowed areas for discussions.

Great, great, great facilities.

Clean, need TV. in room; beds are super comfortable!!

I liked them. I do wish it had been possible to open windows in our rooms and it would have been lovely to be able to eat breakfast out on the deck.

I was expecting more of a resort and less of a campground.... It was a beautiful area, but it just wasn't what I was expecting. The bed was comfortable and the food was hearty.

The facilities were great! The food could have been healthier.

I really enjoyed the atmosphere – its calming effect allowed me to relax so that I was less nervous around my lofty peers.

Great place.

Facilities good. Need more nutritious meals – veggies, hot breakfast

Great! Love it! The menu needs some adaptation for some variety and healthy choices.

Great place. The food is okay, but we could use more veggies. Salads maybe. The dessert could be included – I paid extra \$\$.

The information to the participants (campers) needed to be more specific; namely no closets, no TV's, no place for luggage, etc. That's different from a resort. Example – Bring a flashlight.

Move vegetables and too many fried food meals. It is a great location for the seminar.

Very nice. Food was not very good – more greens, salad, veggies.

Well kept environment. Rooms clean. Very little internet/cell phone usage due to no connections. No TV's in room. Food was fabulous!

Great, very relaxing.

Good. More salad or veggies for food.

Fabulous!

Good okay. Room good.

I liked this location It is beautiful and the staff were VERY nice.

Wonderful place. they should have a place for “wireless” internet.

Great facility though the food was a bit heavy (lots of fried foods).

***Comments about facilitators:***

The facilitators were just that. They gave us enough direction to get us started, but did not interfere with our discussions on assigned or chosen topics.

Very energetic, promptuous and kept audience on task. Good organization.

All of the facilitators were great. No improvement needed.

Amazing! Encouraging! The schedule was kept which is always appreciated at such conferences. The pace was perfect – not too hectic, yet not too lax or unfocussed. Tim, David, Betty (Laurie), and Helen were a great team and I learned something from each of them as well.

Great (except Laurie needs to remember her own name tag)

Facilitators were great, helpful and kept the Round-up moving along.

Overall good; need to work a little more toward keeping conversation on topic and reminding the “talkers” that everyone needs a turn; Laurie is a HOOT!

Good job, guys! A nice mix of personalities.

I loved Laurie’s energy, David’s dry humor, Helen’s dynamic style and Tim’s one-liners. I know it’s a tough job, but try to keep participants on topic and give everyone a turn to speak.

Facilitators did a good job, however, they could get more involved in the conversations. They had a lot of good information I would have enjoyed learning about more often.

They are great! Very knowledgeable and very accessible – which helps when it is your 1<sup>st</sup> of many Round-ups to come. Thank you!

“A #1” – Loved them

Great!

Loved them!

Excellent! Fun, prepared, energetic. Good job!

The facilitators did an excellent job of keeping things on track and moving at the assigned times – I appreciate that. I also appreciate that they tried to involve everyone in the group. However starting 20 minutes early the first night started me off on the wrong track. I wasn’t ready and settled yet in my room. It made me feel late.

Casual, but well organized; planned interesting general sessions; resourceful and fun. It’s worth while.

Excellent group of facilitators – great, dynamic and energy.

Again this year, they were fabulous! Loved their insight and they have the means to motivate us not only to share but not to gripe or complain about issues that cannot be changed.

All were good and encouraging

Good, but better lighting.

The BEST!!

Great! A variety of styles

Betty (Laurie), David, Helen, and Time were great! Very friendly and kept the groups on topic.

Great!

Great job!

***Other:***

Really did enjoy the Round-up! Great people, excellent source for rethinking.

1. I was concerned about the tipping situation for the food service staff. 2. The location was beautiful, but I felt we should have been better warned about the accommodations.

I am excited about implementing so many of the tips and ideas I've learned here. Having such a relaxing and open environment to discuss teaching with other colleagues has been very motivating.

Enjoyed the excursion to the winery!

During the Wednesday night demos and book talks, the actions (moving flip chart papers) by one of the facilitators at the windows was distracting, disruptive and frankly rude to those speaking.

I enjoyed the wine tasting at Fall Creek!

For the meals, you could include breakfast, lunch, but let the guests order from the menu for dinner so there would be a better variety.

Great food! I tell my students 75% of my experience in life is the food – it is usually how I judge this book – rooms were great too!

Perhaps TCCTA could have a Tech Tips in the magazine.

I really liked my roomie, Theresa Ramos. I don't know how it happened, but that was another good job!

I was disappointed in the very limited number of prepared teaching successes and challenges that I received from my two groups. I realize at least one college said they didn't get the email – but, they found their way to the lodge? The main meeting area needs to be out of direct sunlight. One of our group members referred to “her faculty” several times. Isn't this event for faculty vs. administrators or others?

Looking forward to next year! The only problem I have is that every year I come I walk away with so many good ideas and know I have to change my syllabus!

Hope to come again next year.

It's both refreshing and inspiring to share with so many educators – both those new to the profession and those veterans – the enthusiasm we all have for our students and our profession.