Centers for Teaching Effectiveness:
A Resource Guide

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Most colleges and universities have centers that focus on teaching effectiveness. By sharing best practices, they assist faculty in developing and assessing their teaching in order to improve students’ educational experience. These teaching centers have extensive online resources that help both new and experienced teachers. Topics covered include advice on preparing to teach (e.g., course and syllabus design); creating assignments and exams (e.g., goals and outcomes, assessment techniques); integrating pedagogical theory (e.g., learning styles and preferences); choosing teaching methods (e.g., lectures, discussions, active learning, cooperative learning, team teaching); and teaching with technology (e.g., clickers or audience response systems, wikis and blogs, Web tools, podcasting, Second Life).

These leading university centers offer valuable resources:

- Derek Bok Center for Teaching and Learning, Harvard University
  http://bokcenter.harvard.edu

- Center for Excellence in Learning and Teaching, Iowa State University
  http://www.celt.iastate.edu/homepage.html

- Searle Center for Teaching Excellence, Northwestern University
  http://www.northwestern.edu/searle

- Schreyer Institute for Teaching Excellence, Pennsylvania State University
  http://www.schreyerinstitute.psu.edu

- Center for Teaching and Learning, Stanford University
  http://ctl.stanford.edu

- Center for Instructional Development and Research, University of Washington
  http://depts.washington.edu/cidrweb/index.html

- Center for Teaching, Vanderbilt University
  http://www.vanderbilt.edu/cft/about/index.htm

The 2007 publication of Best Practices for Legal Education: A Vision and a Road Map, by Roy Stuckey and others, has focused attention on innovations and reform efforts within law teaching. A growing number of centers and blogs offer resources on law teaching, including the following:

  http://bestpracticeslegaled.albanylawblogs.org

- Institute for Law School Teaching, sponsored by Gonzaga University School of Law and Washburn University School of Law (as of 2009)

- Law School Innovation: A Member of the Law Professor Blogs Network
  http://lsi.typepad.com/lsi

- Teaching and Learning Law–Resources for Legal Education, University of Missouri at Kansas City School of Law
  http://www.law.umkc.edu/faculty/profiles/glesnerfines/bgf-edu.htm

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