

**Dr. Diane O'Dowd Visit to WSU, 1-3 Feb 2012: *Which sessions for which faculty?*  
Large Classes / STEM instruction / TA Training**

**Keynote:** "Creating intellectually stimulating environments in large classes" (Feb 1, 12:10 – 1 in CUE 203; and video-streamed/conferenced for offsite)

- Quick/easy way to incorporate active learning in lecture w/o losing content
- No-cost, low-cost, non-burdensome approaches
  - Using clickers effectively (designing good questions, grading participation)
  - Using small groups and in-class learning activities
  - Using online quizzes (as learning resource, as pre-class assignment, as a "just-in-time teaching" tool <http://jittdl.physics.iupui.edu/jitt/>)
- *With examples from Biology, keynote targets instructors in any discipline who want to engage students, make them partners in the educational process, and assess learning.*

**Workshops, Feb 2 – 3**

**TA training: Learning to teach and balance the academic workload / Managing and Mentoring TAs of Large Classes** (Feb 2, 9:30 – 11:00, CUE 518)

- Logistics of large class instruction (including discussion sections)
- Training, mentoring, and duties of Teaching TAs and Administrative TAs
- *Dr. O'Dowd and her TA training team work with multiple TAs who lead independent discussions. Her goal is discipline-specific TA training: TAs learn a variety of teaching techniques (focus on active learning) and try them out in the context of a specific class. O'Dowd's approach also includes guidance in balancing the academic workload by establishing research goals, applying exercises to reflect on progress, and achieving professional aims.*

**Garage demos: Why use physical models to illustrate biological processes?** (Feb 2, 1:30 – 3, CUE 518)

- Using low-tech, everyday objects to help students, visualize, understand, remember.
- *Dr. O'Dowd uses this technique for both biology majors and non-majors. Other disciplines (e.g., Physics) have a long tradition of demonstrating principles in class (e.g., pendulums, etc.)*

**Learn before lecture: Making more time for active learning in class** (Feb 3, 9:30 – 11, CUE 518)

- Using before-class short assignments and online quizzes (due 3-4 hours before class) to 1) actively engage students and 2) increase student learning gains
- *A useful strategy for any topic where students need factual knowledge to discuss a set of ideas or concepts. Learning the basic knowledge before lecture creates time in class for guided application or problem-solving using this knowledge.*

**Neuroscience Research Seminar:** Friday, Feb 3, noon Wegner G1

- A genetically accurate model of GEFS+ in Drosophila: Seizures to sodium currents

**Sponsored by the College of Veterinary Medicine Teaching Academy**  
with support from ADVANCE at WSU; the WSU Graduate School; the Office of the Provost; and  
the Office of Assessment of Teaching and Learning

For more information or to pre-register, contact: [atl.wsu.edu](http://atl.wsu.edu)

Please **pre-register** online if possible to assist event planners [1/23/2012]