

Virginia Tech Carilion School of Medicine

FREE* Newsletter

*(Faculty Resources for Educational Excellence)

VTCSOM Office of Faculty Affairs & Continuing Professional Development

Office of Professional
Development (OPD)

Office of Continuing Medical
Education (CME)

Center for Simulation,
Research & Patient Safety
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Quote of the Month

*"When the mind knows its
own value, it strives to
establish itself in the right
environment that supports its
growth & development"*
(Terry Mark)

*"The well-bred contradict
other people. The wise
contradict themselves"*
(Oscar Wilde).

Faculty Development on Teaching

Bland et al describe faculty development as "a planned program designed to prepare institutions & faculty members for their various roles."¹ All of us are working in an academic setting because of our passion for the role of **teacher**, and this passion is truly the "heartbeat" of our educational mission. Our passion for educational excellence is reflected in our commitment to our learners, our interest in improving our own teaching and our collective work on maintaining a positive learning environment.

As a function of accreditation and as evidence of good educational practice, the VTC School of Medicine, Office of Faculty Affairs & Professional Development (OCPD) is making it easy to meet expectations for improving our teaching. We are excited to share in this issue what was presented at the annual faculty assembly on February 26, 2015. The maintenance of appointment process for faculty (which happens on an every-3-years cycle) will ask each of us to demonstrate:

- Direct teaching involvement (or the equivalent in service) of a measurable amount at least twice in the three year cycle; and
- Evidence of efforts to improve one's teaching skills in the three year cycle to consist of:
 - Two online modules furnished by the medical school (1 hour each, you choose from a list that is continually expanding);
 - Four additional hours of your choice (focused on teaching & learning).
- For a total of six hours over three years (average of 2 hours per year).

Consistent with adult learning principles, there are lots of ways you can achieve these expectations. The process is deliberately flexible to encourage your choice of activities that best meet your own learning needs. These include:

- Online modules focused on education available via Blackboard, Cornerstone and/or the Office of Continuing Professional Development.
- Attending relevant sessions on teaching skills sponsored by local professional development groups (e.g., Carilion Clinic CME, Virginia Tech, Jefferson College, or other organizations).
- Professional society meetings that provide sessions directed to educational skills or faculty development.
- Other activities designed to improve one's teaching skills not enumerated above.

These activities will be easily captured via the new **Digital Measures** database (coming soon!). Our office offers a wide variety of activities in support of your continuous efforts to improve teaching skills. For example, Faculty Development Express sessions are offered on demand and are customized based on your faculty needs. Contact us for assistance; we're more than happy to help!

¹Bland C; Schmitz C; Stritter F; et al. Successful Faculty in Academic Medicine: Essential Skills & How to Acquire Them. New York, NY: Springer Publishing Company, 1990.