

**ITAC Funding Request - Spring 2002**  
**Center for Teaching Effectiveness**  
**Division of Instructional Innovation and Assessment**

### **Introduction**

The Center for Teaching Effectiveness, a part of the newly-formed DIIA, provides programs, research, and teaching resources to The University's teaching staff: graduate Teaching Assistants, Assistant Instructors, and faculty. CTE's services include online resources, individual consultation, workshops, seminars, course and classroom assistance involving videotaped instruction.

We believe the use of technology in education is effective when guided by sound pedagogical principles. With the growing incorporation of technology into classrooms, CTE fills the need for appropriate guidance as to its effective use by instructors. Our ITAC goal is to fund new web initiatives and to improve dissemination and availability of current services. We share staff and equipment with Graduate Studies' International TA Program and Intellectual Entrepreneurship Programs and collaborate with the Center for Instructional Technology.

### **Background**

For a more complete overview of the Center's activities, visit our web site at <http://www.utexas.edu/academic/cte/>.

CTE provides basic to advanced services to improve The University's educational environment. We perform educational research and provide a Faculty Program and TA/AI Program. Some of our activities include

- Classroom observation (with videotaping, analysis, and feedback)
- Workshops (e.g., "Teaching with Technology Workshop" co-sponsored with CIT)
- TAtalk, an online newsletter addressing specific TA/AI issues
- 398T Course assistance (TA/AI course)
- The New TA Workshop, held annually for all new TAs
- The Experienced TA Conference for new and experienced TAs
- The New Faculty Seminar
- The Experienced Faculty Conference
- Research currently includes the Classroom Community Project, the results of which apply to student retention
- Collaboration with the International TA Program's web and audio-visual services

### **Projects and Funding**

CTE has not previously requested ITAC funds. Funding IT projects will directly benefit The University's instructors (faculty and TA/AIs) by making more of the Center's pedagogical material available online and by providing new technology-based educational resources for instructors.

The Center's limited local IT funds have constrained our efforts to offer up-to-date technology support for TAs, AIs, and faculty. We make extensive use of Audio-visual equipment (consumer-end cameras and professional video editing decks) with the support of A/V specialists (1/4 FTE). This equipment is used for recording and analysis of teacher-student interaction. We share web and file servers with OGS's ITA Program, supported by a 1/4 FTE IT professional and 1/4 FTE web-content specialist (GRA).

## ITAC Funding Requests

<b>Network Infrastructure</b>	\$4,000
<p>The Center invested an initial \$2500 to begin upgrading its non-switched 10MBPS network in order to accommodate network hardware installed by ITS in the Main Building. Cabling and switch modules are needed to complete the upgrade. The upgrade will enable us to implement our web initiatives (see below). Through this network, CTE supports web and file servers and provides free internet access to the Graduate Student Assembly.</p>	
<b>TA Program Internship</b>	\$7,000
<p>The Center's TA Program successfully completed a trial project to provide web-based help to TAs and AIs. We propose funding a 10-hour graduate student internship awarded to continue the project.</p>	
<b>Web-based initiatives</b>	\$24,000
<p>Updated video and digital editing equipment will enhance the Center's current projects and will enable us to implement a web-based project, "Exemplars of Teaching," in which short video clips show contrasting examples of effective and ineffective teaching styles. The proposal includes 1/2 FTE tech staff and initial equipment purchase. The resource will be available to OGS's International TA and Intellectual Entrepreneurship programs.</p> <p>This initiative supports other projects as well. The "Mid-semester Student Feedback Project" fills a vital need for student feedback during the course of the semester, rather than after the semester's end. Mid-semester analysis allows instructors the opportunity to make adjustments to improve classes while time remains. The "Improvement of Teaching: Online Modules" are online faculty training units.</p>	
<b>Portable Multimedia Equipment</b>	\$4,000
<p>We plan to replace a 5-year-old LCD projector used for classroom presentations.</p>	
<b>Total Request</b>	<b>\$39,000</b>