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# GREAT TEACHERS' SEMINAR

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April, 2013

## **The Incentive**

In celebration of all the ongoing, outstanding teaching that occurs at Bakersfield College, we will once again be having a shorter adaptation of the national Great Teaching Seminar just for our faculty. Experienced and inexperienced teachers of all ages and all disciplines are encouraged to attend this celebration of teaching. Sixteen (16) hours of flex credit will be available to those who attend.

## **The Dates**

Friday, Saturday, and Sunday – April 5 – 7, 2013

## **The Site**

The UCLA Conference Center at Lake Arrowhead.

## **The Staff**

Becki Whitson, Facilitator, assisted by Bakersfield College faculty members.

## **The Objectives**

1. To identify and share specific successful teaching techniques used by faculty.
2. To identify and analyze instructional problems and develop creative approaches to their solution.
3. To create new mixes of faculty to help them take advantage of the human resources available in our own colleges.
4. To cause faculty to look beyond their own discipline for resources and ideas and to focus on the universals of teaching.
5. To review and contemplate our attitudes, methods and behavior as teachers.
6. To celebrate good teaching.

## **The Process**

- A. Participants will share solved and unsolved teaching problems as identified in two **very brief** papers written ahead of time.
- B. During the discussion and processing of that information, the facilitators will discern what appear to be the issues of most vital importance to the participants as a group.
- C. After verifying and/or correcting their reading of the group's needs, the staff will proceed to organize topical workshops on specific educational issues in which participants share everything they know and then carry on into creative thinking on the topic. Certain procedures and ground rules which have been developed in the great teacher movement over the last 30 years guarantee a positive and productive experience for all who attend.

## **THE ROUGH SCHEDULE**

<b><u>Friday</u></b>	<b>PM</b>	<b>3:30 pm – Arrival at Lake Arrowhead 4:00 pm – Check in</b>
	<b>Aft</b>	<b>5:00 pm - Introductory Session 5:30 pm - Hospitality Hour</b>
	<b>Eve</b>	<b>6:30 pm - Dinner 8:00 pm - Work Sessions</b>
<b><u>Saturday</u></b>	<b>AM</b>	<b>8:00 am - Breakfast 9:00 am - Work Sessions</b>
	<b>Aft</b>	<b>12:00 pm - Lunch Bulk of the afternoon for recreation/shop talk 5:30 pm - Hospitality Hour</b>
	<b>Eve</b>	<b>6:30 pm - Dinner 8:00 pm - Work Sessions</b>
<b><u>Sunday</u></b>	<b>AM</b>	<b>8:00 am - Breakfast 9:00 am - Work Sessions and Closure</b>
	<b>Aft</b>	<b>12:00 pm - Lunch</b>
	<b>PM</b>	<b>1:00 pm – Departure from Lake Arrowhead</b>

## The Preparation for the Retreat

Each retreat participant is asked to **bring** the following:

1. Fifteen (15) copies of a brief, one-page paper describing a personally attempted instructional **innovation** (successful or unsuccessful). The paper may include a brief description of the instructional problems or circumstances that generated the attempt or a brief analysis of the reasons for its success or failure. Each participant will receive a copy of every paper. The discussion at some of the small group sessions will center around the content of these papers. **Please include your name on your paper.**
2. Fifteen (15) copies of a brief, one-page paper describing a **problem** in instruction for which you have not yet found a satisfactory solution. This paper may analyze the problem or merely pose your questions for discussion. Copies of this paper will also be distributed to all participants and focus discussion for some small group sessions. **Please include your name on your paper.**

**This year let's go green, so put the innovation on one side of a sheet of paper and the problem on the other side.**

3. Any single teaching strategy or device (homemade or commercial, subject-oriented or universally applicable), which has enhanced your teaching effectiveness. It need not be astounding! In short, bring something from your "bag of tricks." Presentation time limited to 1 – 3 minutes. Need not be in written form.
4. One copy of the book, which has had the greatest influence on your teaching. The book will be included in a seminar library. At the end of the seminar, it may be reclaimed or traded.
5. Also, **bring** some or all of the following:
  - Warm, casual clothing (cool at night).
  - Swim suits (there are Jacuzzis), tennis racquets, hiking shoes, golf clubs.
  - Camera (you'll probably be sorry if you don't).
  - That book you've been wanting to read (**no school stuff**).
  - Things you might share with friends, e.g. poetry or prose readings, musical instruments, games, and other forms of entertainment.
  - It's also appropriate to bring your own happy hour **beverages**.

### DO NOT BRING

- Dressy clothing. There will be no occasion for such attire.
- Class preparation materials or the like. This is a retreat.