College Service Plan

Thirty clock hours including one department level and one inter-department level activity are required.

Example:
Mentoring

Department Level: Lead a discussion among faculty on teaching and learning trends in our discipline (e.g., Foreign Language). Promotion materials and a roster of faculty participants will be provided as evidence of completion of this component of the College Service Plan.

Reflection
I was really bowled over at how much interest there was in this discussion group. Participation was robust and the conversations were enthusiastic. The group seemed especially beneficial to adjunct faculty who were able to attend. We not only had great conversations about our students (e.g., how to increase confidence and motivation), but we also began to exchange teaching materials and ideas. A few of us have always done this, but having a structured time that was dedicated to the discussion proved to be wise. The discussions between meetings continued and even deepened, while the discussion group began to serve more as a time to review all that we were doing in our classrooms and plan for the future. I kept an informal journal of our conversations and ideas which has resulted in a wish list of teaching strategies, conferences that department members would like to attend together, and assessment projects. We also began to try different teaching ideas out across classes and languages and then compare notes on what worked and what needed to be revised. All-in-all the discussion group was a very positive experience that will likely continue.

Examples of what I learned about myself as a faculty member
I learned that I didn’t really need to lead the discussion—I just needed to create the opportunity for it. My faculty colleagues were more than eager to meet and share ideas. I don’t know if that is true for other departments at GRCC, but I’m grateful that those of us who teach foreign language are so enthusiastic about teaching and learning from one another.

What I might do differently
In the future I will use more technology. I didn’t start the project with that in mind, but very quickly we all recognized that we needed a Blackboard site or Facebook page, or even Pinterest board to post and exchange ideas. I was surprised with how many good ideas other faculty were willing to share. There has even been some discussion of partnering with faculty at GVSU, Ferris, Davenport, or Aquinas to have monthly, or perhaps once-per-semester exchanges of teaching ideas for foreign language. That is something I am planning to look into.

Inter-Department Level: Lead a monthly faculty discussion (open to all faculty) that
provides an overview of at least six different learning theories and their application to community college students. An online resource guide will be provided as evidence of completion of this component of the College Service Plan.