

**THE CENTER FOR EXCELLENCE IN TEACHING AND LEARNING
AT MINNESOTA STATE UNIVERSITY IS PROUD TO PRESENT
A CELEBRATION OF THE IPESL INITIATIVE**

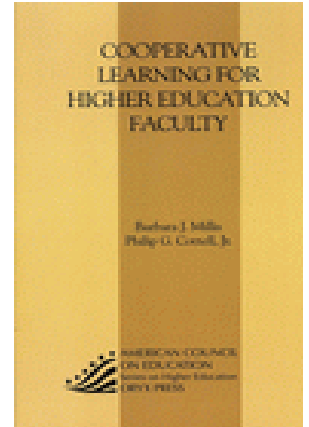
Guest Presenter:

DR. BARBARA MILLIS



**One of the most important authorities
on Cooperative Learning
in Higher Education today**

**Director of the Excellence in Teaching Program
at the University of Nevada at Reno
and
Senior Associate with the Teaching, Learning,
Technologies Group**



Schedule:

MONDAY, SEPTEMBER 10, 2007 in CSU 284

9-12 P.M. Using Cooperative Activities to Promote Critical Thinking and Student Learning

1:30-4:30 P.M. Promoting Critical Thinking and Deep Learning through Writing and Other Activities

TUESDAY, SEPTEMBER 11, 2007 in CSU 284

**9:00-10:30 A.M. IPESL BREAKFAST CELEBRATION AND KEYNOTE
Featuring Provost Scott Olson and Barbara Millis**

*** Please RSVP for the September 11th breakfast/celebration and keynote attendance***

1:30-4:30 P.M. Promoting Critical Thinking through Complex Cooperative Activities

Dr. Barbara Millis:

- A member of the Core Committee for the POD Network [Professional and Organizational Development] in Higher Education
- Has offered workshops at over 300 colleges and universities including many overseas.
- Has published numerous articles on topics such as cooperative learning, classroom observations, the teaching portfolio, microteaching, syllabus construction, classroom assessment/research, focus groups, academic assessment, and academic games.
- Won both a teaching award and a research award while working as the Director of Faculty Development at the U. S. Air Force Academy.

Information about each workshop:

MONDAY, SEPTEMBER 10, 2007 in CSU 284

9-12 P.M.

Using Cooperative Activities to Promote Critical Thinking and Student Learning

Students engaged in higher order thinking typically manipulate information and ideas in ways that transform their meaning and implications, such as when students combine facts and ideas in order to synthesize, generalize, explain, hypothesize, or arrive at some conclusion or interpretation. Manipulating information and ideas through these processes allows students to solve problems and discover new (for them) meanings and understandings. Such higher order thinking occurs when faculty deliberately structure tasks to capitalize on student peer coaching and interactions where they encounter the alternative viewpoints that challenge existing beliefs and assumptions. In this workshop, faculty will look at research on cooperative learning and link it to research on how people learning. More importantly, they will experience at least three cooperative learning activities, two report-out methods and see dozens of other practical applications. The presenter will also model a cooperative classroom.

1:30-4:30 P.M.

Promoting Critical Thinking and Deep Learning through Writing and Other Activities

Deep learning emerges from the careful sequencing of assignments and activities “orchestrated” by a teacher committed to student learning. The research on deep learning has been ongoing, systematic, and convergent. It involves motivating students to acquire a solid knowledge base through active, interactive learning. This interactive workshop will help teachers understand how to sequence structured assignments and activities to foster deep learning approaches. Students complete relevant written assignments outside of class—for which they are accountable—that help them learn new knowledge by connecting it to what they already know. Because students come to class prepared, class time can be spent productively by having students in pairs or small groups compare their out-of-class products to foster critical thinking and constructive feedback. Assessment for both students and teachers arises naturally out of the structured activities.

TUESDAY, SEPTEMBER 11, 2007 in CSU 284

9:00-10:30 A.M.

IPESL BREAKFAST CELEBRATION AND KEYNOTE

Featuring Provost Scott Olson and Barbara Millis

Join your colleagues in a celebration of the work completed by our 39 IPESL grant winners. Have a continental breakfast, listen to remarks by Provost Olson and a Keynote discussion by Barbara Millis concerning critical thinking and our MSU students. Please RSVP for this session by contacting CETL at stewart.ross@mnsu.edu or call 507-389-1098 by September 5, 2007.

1:30-4:30 P.M.

Promoting Critical Thinking through Complex Cooperative Activities

Participants will come to know the theory and philosophy behind cooperative learning, including its belief in the value and educability of all students and the need to provide cooperative environments that balance challenge and support. As important, however, they will learn how to use complex cooperative structures, such as academic games, debates, and interactive problem-solving, to foster academic achievement, student retention, and liking for the subject matter. The presenter will emphasize efficient facilitation of group processes.