Downstate’s Faculty Development Initiative invites you to our Ongoing series of workshops on Principals of Learning and Teaching

**Topic**

"Does your Teaching Foster Independent, Analytical and Critical Thinking?"

**Presenter:** Dr. Bill Roberson  
Director of Institute for Teaching, Learning & Academic Leadership  
University at Albany, SUNY

**Course Description:**

Critical Thinking is a way of approaching problems and responding to the unfamiliar or the unexpected. In other words, it’s a cluster of perspectives, values and qualities that, together, constitute an “attitude of inquiry.” No wonder, then, that it’s so rare to see and so hard to teach. If you’re looking to become more intentional in fostering this “attitude of inquiry” in your students (whether graduate, professional or undergraduate), this session is for you. We’ll look at practical ways of “provoking inquisitiveness” and inducing the “productive frustration” that is the emotional launching pad for intellectual engagement. We’ll investigate why students resist risk-taking in their thinking. We’ll discuss how to promote independence of learning and thinking. Above all, we will investigate how disciplinary content can either serve as a catalyst for critical thinking or as its coffin—depending on how you use it. Join us for an engaging conversation with your colleagues, and lots of concrete examples for how your course can be the place where critical thinking happens.

**Target audience:** Faculty involved in Student education, course design and curricular development

**Box lunches will be provided**  
**Please RSVP by email to Angela Melton**  
**Date:** Wednesday, January 18, 2012  
**Time:** 12 pm to 2 pm  
**Room:** 7-1 BSB