

Lunch & Learn: Teaching As Postdoc

Date: October 18, 2017

Invited Speaker: Patrick Tripeny, Director of the Center for Teaching and Learning Excellence

Dr. Patrick Tripeny provided a comprehensive overview of the teaching opportunities and resources available at the Center for Teaching & Learning Excellence (<http://ctle.utah.edu/>). Following are the major points drawn from the discussion:

- CTLE offers the Higher Education Teaching Specialist certification (<http://ctle.utah.edu/hets/>) that is available to graduate students and postdocs. This certification is designed to prepare you to teach your first course, can be listed on your C.V., is a great way to demonstrate a commitment to teaching during your postdoc even if you don't have the time to teach a class. It takes approximately 9-12 months to complete, and can be taken anytime throughout the academic year. HETS requires you to take 2 classes (CTLE 600 – Best Practices & Pedagogies in Higher Education, CTLE 651-Cyber Pedagogy; both available with 50% discount for postdocs), attend short workshop, observe teaching and be observed in teaching. During this certification you will develop your teaching style, teaching portfolio and teaching philosophy/statement.
- It was also highlighted that postdocs are welcome to attend the teaching seminars/workshops (<http://ctle.utah.edu/tws/>) that are advertised for either graduate students (if you have little teaching experience) or faculty (if you have experience and/or are teaching your own course). Specific workshops organized by CTLE are:
  - Teaching Workshop Series
    - Teaching Presence & Communication Tools for the Online Classroom
    - Social Media & Professional Digital Persona
    - Presentation Toolkit: Creating Effective PowerPoint Lecture Slides
  - Annual Teaching Symposium
  - Summer Bootcamp for using technology in teaching
- Also, the Center for Teaching & Learning Excellence offers one-on-one advising appointments to review job application materials, such as the teaching section of your C.V. and your teaching philosophy.
- In addition, if you are interested in getting some teaching experience in your research area, reach out to your PI or other PIs in your Department and ask if you could help them with their courses.
- If you would like to develop your own course or class in your area of specialty, CTLE provides you with lots of resources to help you develop syllabus, lectures, audience to let you practice your teaching style, and more, whatever is necessary to prepare you to teach your first course.
- If you already have some teaching experience and looking for teaching position here in the area, look at other schools like Salt Lake Community College or Westminster College, as these schools are always posting teaching job offers. They usually offer lots of opportunities for PhDs for teaching their introductory classes.
  - There are other teaching resources available at the University of Utah (<http://ctle.utah.edu/related/>):
    - Lowell Bennion Community Service center,
    - My U Signature Experience (MUSE) – provide great mentoring opportunities
    - Office of Undergraduate Research,
    - Teaching and Learning Technology Center (TLTC),
    - Academy of Health Science Educators.
- You are encouraged to browse the Center for Teaching & Learning Excellence website if you are interested in becoming more involved in teaching or just knowing more about the resources available on campus.