



Bruce K. Nelson

Faculty Development Center

Reacting to the Past Fellowship Program Call for Applications

Due date: Monday, Nov. 2, 2009 at 5 pm.

**Bruce K. Nelson Faculty Development Center
Eastern Michigan University**

Invitation

Members of the EMU Faculty, Full Time Lecturers, and Adjuncts are invited to apply for a ***“Reacting to the Past Fellowship.”*** Under this new program, Reacting to the Past (RTTP) Fellows will be trained in the Reacting to the Past pedagogy, provided regular mentoring with experienced Reacting instructors, and paid a \$1,000 honorarium. The aim is to enable more EMU faculty and instructors to use the Reacting method of elaborately designed, interdisciplinary, role-playing games. This pedagogy is noted for its high levels of student engagement, academically and socially, and has been shown to promote student retention and academic success.

This Fellowship has two phases. The first involves training with a cohort of EMU RTTP Fellows in the Reacting pedagogy. In the second phase, Reacting Fellows will teach with the Reacting method in one or more courses. This implementation of the Reacting pedagogy can be either in an appropriate existing course or in a newly developed course. Professor Mark Higbee of the EMU history faculty will serve as a mentor for RTTP Fellows.

For **the training phase**, RTTP Fellows will participate in at least three workshops by “playing” compressed Reacting to the Past games. (Playing a Reacting game is the best way to be prepared to “teach” it.) These workshops will run 1.5 days each and will be scheduled roughly once every two months, starting in Winter 2010 thru the fall of 2010. All Fellows, and other EMU community members, will participate in these workshops. (Fellows may also attend Reacting conferences at other institutions, including the national RTTP conference at Barnard Conference, June 11-14.) Fellows will also attend Fellowship Seminar meetings of 90 minutes each, scheduled once every two weeks from January through mid April, 2010, and in fall 2010 as needed.

For **the implementation phase**, RTTP Fellows will “run” one or more games in either an existing course or while teaching a newly developed course designed around the Reacting method. Implementation can be in fall 2010, but for some, circumstances may require later implementation. Professor Higbee and other trained faculty will be available for regular and on-going consultations with Fellows while they implement Reacting in their classes. *Since Reacting classes cannot work optimally if the class has over 24 students, it will be necessary to work with Academic Affairs to arrange appropriate caps for the sections in which Fellows will implement Reacting.*

A full description of the Reacting to the Past pedagogy, which is now used at 300 campuses nationwide, is at www.barnard.edu/reacting. Of particular relevance to EMU instructors may be the article by Mark Higbee assessing his use of Reacting at EMU in the book *Making Learning Visible*, edited by Jeffrey Bernstein. It is available as a PDF at the Barnard website.



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The Reacting method is typically considered fun and demanding by students and Reacting faculty alike: the pedagogy produces a very lively, largely student-led classroom. Faculty who have used the method overwhelmingly report it to be highly satisfying, personally and professionally.

Schedule and Honoraria

This seminar will meet every other week for ninety minutes during the winter 2010 and fall 2010 semesters (once during January, April, Sept. and December) at a time of mutual convenience to the group. Faculty will receive a \$1000 honorarium for their participation in the project, \$500 to be paid at the conclusion of the winter semester upon submission of a project plan for integrating an RTTP game into a course, and \$500 to be paid upon submission of the final project report.

Application Process

If you are interested in becoming part of this seminar, please complete the attached application and return to Karen Busch by Monday, Nov. 2, 5pm (2009). We would prefer to receive the application via email at <aavp_fdc@emich.edu>; applications may also be dropped off at 109 Halle Library. For more information, call Karen Busch, 734-487-0020, x 2114, or contact Mark Higbee via email at <mhigbee@emich.edu> or by phone at 734-487-1018.