software engineering

disciplinary Commons

The Software Engineering Disciplinary Commons is:

The *Software Engineering Disciplinary Commons* is a new project funded by the National Science Foundation, having two primary objectives:

- To document and share knowledge about pedagogic approaches and student learning in Software Engineering.
- To improve the quality of teaching Software Engineering (SE) by establishing practices for the scholarship of teaching by making it public, peer-reviewed, and amenable for future use and development by other SE educators.

Each participant in the Commons will construct a course portfolio for their software engineering course, as well as evaluating the portfolios of other participants and collectively deciding on appropriate content for software engineering portfolios.

From the pool of applicants, up to 12 participants from mid-western US institutions will be invited to participate.

Participation in the Software Engineering Commons involves:

The *Software Engineering Commons* will meet during the 2009-10 academic year, including:

- An initial full-day meeting, in September 2009, will introduce participants to the portfolio model, to the objectives and structure of the Commons, and to key skills for beginning their portfolio work.
- Participants will then meet every 4-6 weeks throughout the academic year developing their own portfolios and evaluating one another's work-in-progress.
- The final full-day meeting, in May 2010, will provide opportunity for critical reflection, finalizing dissemination plans, and for examining issues from the entire corpus of portfolios.

If accepted, each participant commits to:

1. Attending both initial and capstone full-day workshops,
2. attending all meetings, at 4-6 week interval,
3. completing a course portfolio for your SE course

As well as committing to attending and undertaking your own work, these activities will involve:

- Reading a small number of papers that will help in carrying out the goals of the project, and
- Reading and critiquing portions of other participants' portfolios.

What the Disciplinary Commons isn't:

The Software Engineering Commons seeks to bring faculty with experience in teaching software engineering together for the purposes stated above, and thus is NOT intended to:

- generate a courseware repository
- develop educational materials
- train faculty to teach software engineering

Who should apply to participate:

- have and/or are teaching undergraduate Software Engineering
- can travel to St. Louis area once per month during 2009-10 academic year

Reasons to participate:

- **Professional development**: As consistently reported in the research literature, staff creating course portfolios state that the critical reflection involved in portfolio construction results in significant and lasting changes to the course and to their own subsequent teaching.
- **Community development**: Although a culture of peer review and discourse is common within research communities it is rare among teachers as teaching most often happens in isolation, "behind closed doors". As we document our own work and review each other's, we overcome insularity and secrecy and are able to identify knowledge and best practices, which can be developed and shared as community resources.
- **Documentation of practice**: In a course portfolio, participants will have a persistent, peer-reviewed, documented deliverable that can be shared with others both inside of, and external to, their home institution.

The cost:

There is no cost to participate in the Commons. The Commons project will pay for all participant travel.

To apply:

Visit: **http://sec.cs.siue.edu/application.html**

Find out more:

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Disciplinary Commons Leadership:

The leader for this project and workshop facilitator is Dennis Bouvier, Assistant Professor at Southern Illinois University Edwardsville. The *Software Engineering Disciplinary Commons* project has been developed with Josh Tenenberg of the University of Washington Institute of Technology and Sally Fincher of the University of Kent Canterbury, leaders of computing Disciplinary Commons.

Sponsor: