

CTLA Article Review

Reviewer: Roni Evans, DC, MS, Dean of Research

Article:

Gruppen L, Simpson D, et al. Educational Fellowship Program: Common Themes and Overarching Issues. Acad Med;81:990-994.

What the Article is About:

The article describes key components of *faculty* educational fellowship programs at several health professional educational institutions. Fellowship programs focus on developing faculty teaching skills, educational research, curriculum development and educational leadership.

Why the Article May be Useful:

The authors describe the systematic processes used at nine health professional schools to develop programs to address institutional needs for developing educational expertise and leadership skills among faculty. New academic standards, the need to sustain faculty academic enthusiasm, and a changing health care delivery system appear to be challenges shared by all health care teaching institutions.

Using criteria to assess educational innovations, the authors describe key elements of faculty fellowship programs. These include 1) clear goals, adequate preparation and appropriate methods; 2) significant results and effective communications; and 3) reflective critique. It is arguable that a similar approach would be appropriate for the development of non-faculty programs (i.e. residencies) as well.

Who the Article is For:

- Faculty and administrators interested in designing a faculty fellowship program to enhance teaching, leadership and educational research skills while meeting institutional needs.
- Faculty and administrators looking for insight into systematic approaches for design of other educational programs such as residencies, internships, etc.

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Article:

Searle N, Thompson B, Perkowski L. Making It Work: The Evolution of a Medical Educational Fellowship Program. *Acam Med.*2006;81:984-989.

What the Article is About:

This article describes the collaborative Educational Scholars Fellowship Program (ESFP) designed for faculty in academic medicine at three, large, established health professional institutions: Baylor College of Medicine, University of Texas Medical School, and the University of Texas Dental Branch. Focus of the program is to build faculty's knowledge of educational theories, principles and techniques; enhance faculty skills as educators; promote faculty as educational leaders; build a culture of educational excellence; and facilitate faculty self-reflection through formal and informal feedback.

Detailed description is provided about the evolution of the program, fellow characteristics, institutional resource support, and program specifics including learning objectives and formats. Results of an evaluation of the program are also presented detailing fellows' progress in 10 main areas.

Why the Article May be Useful:

The article describes an extremely well developed program at institutions with substantial financial and personnel resources. While these resources might not be readily available at smaller institutions such as Northwestern, the article offers ideas regarding collaboration with other institutions. In detailing the specifics of the fellowship program, the article may also provide "seed ideas" for a smaller scale, Educational Fellowship Program to be developed at Northwestern.

Who the Article is For:

- Faculty and administrators interested in designing and supporting a faculty fellowship program emphasizing educational scholarship.
- Faculty and administrators looking for insight into systematic approaches for design of other educational programs such as residencies, internships, etc.