

# Centers for Teaching Effectiveness: A Resource Guide

By **Mary A. Hotchkiss**

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Most colleges and universities have centers that focus on teaching effectiveness. By sharing best practices, they assist faculty in developing and assessing their teaching in order to improve students' educational experience. These teaching centers have extensive online resources that help both new and experienced teachers. Topics covered include advice on preparing to teach (e.g., course and syllabus design); creating assignments and exams (e.g., goals and outcomes, assessment techniques); integrating pedagogical theory (e.g., learning styles and preferences); choosing teaching methods (e.g., lectures, discussions, active learning, cooperative learning, team teaching); and teaching with technology (e.g., clickers or audience response systems, wikis and blogs, Web tools, podcasting, Second Life).

These leading university centers offer valuable resources:

- Derek Bok Center for Teaching and Learning, Harvard University  
<http://bokcenter.harvard.edu>
- Center for Excellence in Learning and Teaching, Iowa State University  
<http://www.celt.iastate.edu/homepage.html>
- Searle Center for Teaching Excellence, Northwestern University  
<http://www.northwestern.edu/searle>
- Schreyer Institute for Teaching Excellence, Pennsylvania State University  
<http://www.schreyerinstitute.psu.edu>
- Center for Teaching and Learning, Stanford University  
<http://ctl.stanford.edu>

- Center for Instructional Development and Research, University of Washington  
<http://depts.washington.edu/cidrweb/index.html>

- Center for Teaching, Vanderbilt University  
<http://www.vanderbilt.edu/cft/about/index.htm>

The 2007 publication of *Best Practices for Legal Education: A Vision and a Road Map*, by Roy Stuckey and others, has focused attention on innovations and reform efforts within law teaching. A growing number of centers and blogs offer resources on law teaching, including the following:

- Best Practices for Legal Education, sponsored by Albany Law School  
<http://bestpracticeslegaled.albanylawblogs.org>
- Institute for Law School Teaching, sponsored by Gonzaga University School of Law and Washburn University School of Law (as of 2009)  
<http://www.law.gonzaga.edu/About-Gonzaga-Law/Institute-for-Law-School-Teaching/default.asp>
- Law School Innovation: A Member of the Law Professor Blogs Network  
<http://lsi.typepad.com/lsi>
- Teaching and Learning Law—Resources for Legal Education, University of Missouri at Kansas City School of Law  
<http://www.law.umkc.edu/faculty/profiles/glesnerfines/bgf-edu.htm>

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