



September 7, 2007

Dr. Nancy Zimpher
Office of the President
University Pavilion 625
P.O. Box 210063
Cincinnati, OH 45221

Dear Dr. Zimpher,

The Institutional Leadership Program of the Carnegie Academy for the Scholarship of Teaching and Learning (CASTL) has now been underway for more than a year. Much has transpired in that time, and it could not have happened without the commitment of leaders like you. We are grateful for your institution's involvement (the attached sheet provides an overview of program design and participation) and eager to give you an update on progress and plans.

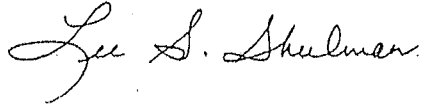
The program's formal launch took place in November 2006, in conjunction with the third annual conference of the International Society for the Scholarship of Teaching and Learning (ISSOTL), held in Washington, D.C. Representatives from all CASTL institutions met for a full day to discuss goals for the three years of project work, meet with others around common themes, and strategize about how to use the principles of the scholarship of teaching and learning to advance crucial institutional agendas for student learning and teaching excellence. To stay abreast of this work, we urge you to meet with your CASTL liaison (copied on this letter) to discuss goals and progress.

More recently, we were delighted to see representatives from many of the CASTL campuses -- though there was no all-project gathering -- at the 2007 ISSOTL conference in Sydney, Australia. The conference was a visible emblem of the progress of the scholarship of teaching and learning: its power to attract thoughtful leaders around the world and to catalyze important developments on campus. The next conference is in Edmonton, Alberta, October 16-18, 2008, and many of the CASTL campuses are planning to meet there.

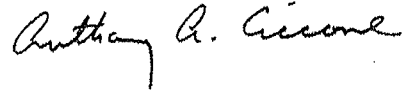
Meanwhile, Carnegie is working with project participants to identify an appropriate set of indicators to mark our progress and provide evidence of the impact of the scholarship of teaching and learning on student learning, teaching excellence, and institutional effectiveness. The full project group will convene again to take stock and to report out to the larger community at the sixth annual ISSOTL conference, October 22-25, 2009, in Bloomington, Indiana. We hope to engage presidents and provosts from participating campuses and urge you to put the dates on your calendar.

The CASTL Institutional Leadership Program and the work of the scholarship of teaching and learning can only succeed through the support and good offices of campus leaders like you, who value the continued improvement of education at your institution. For that commitment, in word and deed, we thank you on behalf of The Carnegie Foundation for the Advancement of Teaching.

Warm regards,



Lee S. Shulman
President



Tony Ciccone
Senior Scholar and CASTL Director

Encl: List of CASTL Institutional Leadership Program themes and participants

Cc: Wayne Hall