

# Teaching and Learning at Rice

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## Who Are We?

Established in 2012, the Center for Teaching Excellence at Rice University seeks to transform teaching through mentoring, innovative practices, collaboration, scholarship, and advocacy. The CTE is led by a director and a board of Faculty Fellows with demonstrated excellence in teaching.



The CTE hosted a series of events in the fall of 2013, including a Welcome Back barbeque, a workshop in collaboration with Educational Technologies, and three TEACH workshops for graduate students and postdocs.

## Director's Welcome

Welcome, everyone, to the very first issue of our newsletter for Rice's Center for Teaching Excellence! Our hope for this space is to provide updates about our work in the CTE and to share information about our services and programs. From time to time, we may also write a bit about recent research on teaching and learning.

As you can see in this newsletter, to say that this semester has been busy and exciting would be an understatement. Since I arrived in August, I have been privileged to work with so many amazing students, faculty, and staff as we have

strived to build on the strong foundation for the CTE

that was already in place. Special thanks go to Dean John Hutchinson, Brian Gibson, and all of the CTE's Faculty Fellows (especially Kathy Matthews who is serving as Chair of the CTE Fellows this year while Steve Cox is on sabbatical) for their guidance and support.

Josh Eyer  
CTE Director



## CTE to Host Symposium on Teaching and Learning

All students, staff, faculty, and alumni are invited to the Rice University Symposium on Teaching and Learning on Friday, January 17, 2014! This is a chance for the Rice community to come together to discuss the past, present, and future of teaching on our campus. Join us in McMurtry Auditorium, Duncan Hall for:

- 11:00-11:15 Welcome and introductory remarks – *Josh Eyer, CTE Director*
- 11:15-12:15 Interactive roundtable: effective teaching techniques – *Rice faculty*
- 12:15-1:15 Lunch in Martel Hall – *All speakers and guests*
- 1:30-2:30 Keynote address – *Eden King, Associate Professor of Psychology, George Mason University*
- 2:30-3:30 Roundtable reflections: roles as teacher-scholars – *Rice faculty*

Lunch will be provided to all those who [RSVP](#). Hope to see you there!



## What We Do for You

In addition to hosting workshops and events throughout the year, the CTE offers a variety of services for instructors and students.



### All instructors

CTE staff are available for **teaching consultations** for anyone who is teaching a class at Rice. Instructors can schedule an appointment to discuss any aspect of their teaching, such as syllabus construction, exam design, and classroom management. We also offer **classroom observations** for instructors who wish to receive detailed, formative feedback about their teaching and **Small Group Instructional Diagnoses** to collect anonymous feedback from students about a course. The CTE maintains confidentiality for all of these services. To arrange for any of these services, e-mail the Director, Josh Eyler, at [jeyley@rice.edu](mailto:jeyley@rice.edu).

### Faculty

We offer workshops and seminars throughout the academic year for faculty to discuss new developments in the field of teaching and learning. CTE staff are available to meet with individuals and departments to design specialized programs and to consult on a wide range of pedagogical issues. Finally, we offer programming for new faculty in conjunction with the Office of Faculty Development. As part of this new series, we met once a month in the fall to discuss James Lang's *On Course: A Week-by-Week Guide to Your First Semester of College Teaching*.

### Graduate students and postdoctoral scholars

The CTE sponsors a variety of **TEACH Workshops** for graduate students and postdocs that are designed to focus on innovative, transformational techniques to enhance student learning. Participation in eight of these workshops will earn you a teaching certificate that can be noted on your CV. The CTE also offers **academic job market support** for graduate students and postdocs preparing to be future faculty members; contact the Director, Josh Eyler, at [jeyley@rice.edu](mailto:jeyley@rice.edu) to set up an appointment.



### Undergraduate students

The CTE encourages undergraduates to provide honest, constructive feedback about teaching at Rice through the **course and instructor evaluations** on Esther. When you fill out your evaluations at the end of this semester, remember to provide helpful, specific feedback, as course and instructor evaluations are one of the best ways to motivate and guide future change in teaching at Rice. Undergraduate students can also design and teach their own one-credit **student-taught courses**; more information can be found at [stc.rice.edu](http://stc.rice.edu).

## Save the Date!

### Upcoming CTE Events

**Teaching, Learning, and Technology Workshop: "Do Facebook and Twitter Engage Your Students?"**

Wednesday, December 11, 2013

Noon - 1:00 p.m.

Brockman Hall 101

All interested instructors and students are welcome to attend. Pizza will be provided to all who [RSVP](#) by 5:00 p.m. on December 10.

**Rice University Symposium on Teaching and Learning**

Friday, January 17, 2014

11:00 a.m. - 3:30 p.m.

McMurtry Auditorium, Duncan Hall

All faculty, staff, alumni, postdoctoral scholars, and graduate and undergraduate students are invited! Lunch will be provided to all who [RSVP](#).

**TEACH Workshop: "Teaching and the Academic Job Market, Part II: The Interview Process"**

Thursday, January 30, 2014

12:15 - 1:15 p.m.

Duncan College 113

For graduate students and postdocs; no RSVP necessary.

**TEACH Workshop: "The Parts of Teaching Nobody Ever Talks About: Classroom Management, Advising, and More!"**

Thursday, February 13, 2014

12:15 - 1:15 p.m.

Duncan College 113

For graduate students and postdocs; no RSVP necessary.

Questions? Comments? Suggestions? We'd love to hear from you!

Contact: [jeyley@rice.edu](mailto:jeyley@rice.edu) • Telephone: (713) 348-2732 • Website: <http://cte.rice.edu>

Location: Anderson Biology Labs, Rooms 209B & D (relocating January 2014 to Herring Hall 129)