

Dear Department Chairs,

In Spring 2007, Faculty Development offered the Classroom English Pilot Program to interested faculty members. This program was established in response to a department chair's suggestion that Faculty Development offer faculty with accents unfamiliar to CSUN students an opportunity to increase their ability to effectively communicate in the classroom. The ultimate objective of this program is to enhance students' engagement in learning through faculty members' improved communication skills.

The Spring 2007 Classroom English Pilot Program, led by licensed speech professional X of the company Y consisted of eight 90-minute workshop sessions offered over an eight-week period. Participating faculty receive instructional materials including a complete CD series for their own personal use both during and after completion of the program. To build on the participants' development, X is also leading four "follow-up" sessions in the current semester.

In a survey conducted at the end of the Spring 2007 Program, all respondents stated that they believed their communication with their students had improved as a result of the Program, and that they would recommend the Program to their colleagues. One commented: "Usually I have students ask me [to repeat] back what I said. After attending the Classroom English Pilot Program, my students asked me less."

Given the Program's success, Faculty Development would like to offer again the eight session-workshop led by Ms. Brock for eight to ten faculty members in Spring 2008. Faculty members have already expressed interest, but there is still space available.

If any faculty in your department could benefit from the Classroom English Program, would you please contact them to ascertain their interest in participating? Faculty Development cannot guarantee that this program will continue in the future, so interested faculty should be encouraged to take advantage of it now.

If you have any questions or concerns, please feel free to contact me. Thank you for your continuing support of Faculty Development!

Best wishes,