

October 22, 2015

Silvia Benso
Professor and Department Chair, Philosophy
College of Liberal Arts
Rochester Institute of Technology

Dear Dr. Benso,

It is with great pleasure that I write to you, to recognize the efforts of Dr. Colin Mathers to foster conversations about improving teaching at RIT.

One year ago, Colin came to Teaching and Learning Services to propose a brown bag lunch series, during which teachers could discuss topics around teaching and learning. That idea grew into Teachers on Teaching, a popular monthly series, that has enabled cross-disciplinary conversations about topics as varied as metacognition, active learning, and accessibility.

Dr. Mathers has also been an active participant in the RIT Teaching and Learning Commons discussion boards. Using the Commons, he established a community of Peer Observation, in which teachers volunteer to let other faculty observe the way they teach; not to critique, but rather to learn from one another. To date, 30 faculty (representing all 9 colleges of RIT) have signed on to this program. He has also created a popular section of the Commons dedicated to sharing Teaching Tips. Finally, we in the ILI are grateful for Colin's involvement as a co-presenter at New Faculty Orientation, where he outlined these features of the Commons for the benefit of incoming faculty.

Dr. Mathers has proven to be a great asset to RIT as he continually strives to improve the craft of teaching, as both the creator of spaces for dialogue, and as an active participant in those spaces. It is our hope that he is able to continue to share his passion for teaching with RIT.

Sincerely,



Neil Hair, Ph.D.
Executive Director, Innovative Learning Institute
Rochester Institute of Technology

cc: Colin Mathers