Most professional experts rely on a network of colleagues who serve as sounding boards and consultants: why shouldn’t you? The University at Albany’s Institute for Teaching, Learning and Academic Leadership (ITLAL) is a resource for faculty who are looking to sharpen their professional practice and would like to learn about research-based strategies. ITLAL’s team of consultants serve as a resource and “personal coach” for faculty in ways that work for a range of disciplines and professional needs. Every professor and every situation is different, and we provide a variety of resources to meet your needs.

**Teaching Events and Workshops**
ITLAL workshops are more than presentations on teaching. They are designed to replicate the experience of active, inquiry-driven learning so participants can imagine and reflect on what it might be like to try an evidence-based strategy, method, or technique in their own classrooms. ITLAL events also present opportunities for faculty and graduate students to build community across the university by interacting with colleagues outside their home departments.

**Instructional Leadership Academies**
For instructors who are interested in making deep changes to their teaching, ITLAL’s Instructional Leadership Academies provide a systematic process of ongoing support and feedback. Academies begin with two full-day workshops followed by a personalized consultation process with one or more ITLAL staff members. Academies are offered in January, June, and August. Our current Instructional Leadership Academies include Course Design for Deeper and More Lasting Student Learning and More Rigor and More Fun with Team-Based Learning.

**Customized Workshops**
Academic departments and other units on campus may find that multiple members of the faculty share an interest or concern, such as effective mentoring of students, engaging students in controversial discussions, using group work effectively, or preventing plagiarism. In these cases, ITLAL will work directly with departments to design sessions that directly address their needs.

**Individual Consultations**
It’s not always easy to find a collaborator in your own department or field who is willing to join you as you reflect on your teaching or explore a new method. ITLAL fills this need. Bring in a question you’d like to explore, and a member of the staff will accompany you as you make important decisions about your teaching. The consultation process offers support for design of courses and learning activities, direct feedback on assignments, help with documentation of your teaching, interpretation of feedback from students, guidance for facing challenges in your teaching, or any other topic of interest. All consultations with ITLAL staff are completely confidential.

**Feedback on your Teaching**
ITLAL offers several services to help instructors receive non-evaluative feedback on their teaching. One of ITLAL’s most requested services is the Early Semester Survey, an anonymous survey intended to generate actionable data on how students are responding to a course that is underway. It’s also possible for instructors to request a live observation of a class meeting, or even a focus group interview of a class, for purposes of collecting data on a specific teaching practice or reflecting on your teaching. All data collected from these mechanisms are held in confidence between ITLAL consultants and clients. These are all effective ways to verify the success of a teaching strategy and to document your teaching.

**Professional Development for Pre-Tenure Faculty**
ITLAL wants to ensure that UAlbany faculty succeed in the classroom and beyond, and for this reason we offer events and resources to support junior faculty as they become oriented to the institution and navigate the path to tenure. Faculty at the beginning of their first or second year at UAlbany are invited to attend the Early Career Institute for New Faculty (ECI), a three-day workshop held each August. The ECI focuses on preparing participants to be successful in every facet of teaching.
of their faculty work lives, including guidance for effective and efficient teaching, developing a research trajectory, long-term planning, time management, developing mentoring relationships, and more. Tenure Trek, held during the fall and spring semesters each year, is an informal discussion series that offers the opportunity for junior faculty to learn about the path to tenure from senior colleagues.

**Teaching Portfolios and Tenure Dossiers**

Documentation of teaching is important to the success of professional academics, and it is also an opportunity for growth and reflection. ITLAL works with faculty to help them communicate their teaching beliefs and practices so they can demonstrate their effectiveness.

**Graduate Student Support**

ITLAL provides focused, specialized support to graduate students who teach and who plan careers as faculty members. In addition to regular ITLAL workshops on teaching and an annual series on the academic job market, graduate students can attend and even present at the annual College Teaching Symposium. ITLAL also sponsors the Future Faculty and Teaching Development Program, a sequence of three courses and additional activities that bolsters graduate students' preparation as university instructors and improves their chances in the academic job market.

**Web Resources**

ITLAL's website (www.itlal.org) contains a wide array of teaching resources for faculty and graduate students in teaching roles. Instructors can also use the website to request services, register for events, or make an appointment with an ITLAL consultant.

**Newsletters**

ITLAL publishes two newsletter series. The Teaching@Albany series features short articles focused on evidence-based best practices in college teaching. The Graduate Teaching at Albany series features short articles focused on evidence-based best practices in college teaching and strategies for effectively navigating the academic job market and academic careers.

**ITLAL Resource Library**

If you are among those who still like to sit with a cup of coffee in a quiet place and get your ideas from a book, we invite you to visit the ITLAL Library. We keep a library of the best books on university teaching in a space with comfortable chairs and a conference table. Paper copies of the Chronicle of Higher Education are also available.

**Clickers**

ITLAL provides support for faculty who want to use clicker technology in the classroom. Clickers are wireless handheld devices that allow instructors to ask questions in class and immediately collect students' responses for the purposes of provoking critical thinking and meaningful interaction. In addition to pedagogical support for developing questions and managing discussions, ITLAL supports use of the iClicker technology, including training on the system and administrative assistance in coordinating instructors' clicker orders with the University bookstore.

**Media Services**

ITLAL offers services that allow you to digitize your existing media into formats that can easily be made available for students in your courses. The new campus-wide streaming media service is Ensemble Video, a content management system that allows you to upload audio and video files and manage your own content. Student access to your content can be managed through Blackboard. Bring your materials to ITLAL and we’ll help you do the rest!

**Contacting ITLAL**

To learn more about ITLAL or to request our services, there are several ways to reach us. Please visit our website (www.itlal.org), call us at 518-442-5521, or email teachingandlearning@albany.edu. Or feel free to drop by! (See directions below.)

**Finding ITLAL UNDERGROUND**

We are located in Library 69, on the lower level of the main campus between the University Library and the Business Administration and Arts & Sciences buildings. Use the outdoor stairwell leading down from the podium level (marked by the “X” on the map). At the bottom of the stairway make a U-turn and enter the building through the door under those stairs. ITLAL will be directly in front of you.