



The Purpose:

The **Teaching Squares** program is designed to improve teaching skills and build community through a non-threatening process of classroom observation and shared reflection. The process involves the best aspects of peer evaluation—observation and discussion—**while excluding judgment and evaluation**. Participants in a square learn about the best practices of other faculty in order to improve their own teaching.

As Easy as 4, 3, 2, 1:

- 4 Faculty members = 1 Teaching Square
- 3 Classroom observations
- 2 All-squares sessions = Initial Introduction, February 10th; Closing Celebration, April 13th
- 1 Square share session = Your Teaching Square (4) at your designated time
- 0 Evaluations

The Benefits:

By participating in Teaching Squares you have an opportunity to:

- Observe, analyze, and celebrate good teaching,
- Increase your understanding of and appreciation for the work of your colleagues, and
- Enhance your own teaching based on the shared observations and reflections of your Square partners.

The Philosophy:

The cornerstones of Teaching Squares are the positive attitudes and behaviors that create a mutually supportive, energizing environment for sharing the joys and challenges of teaching.

- Cooperation and shared responsibility facilitate a team effort and a team result.
- Participants develop an appreciation of quality teaching skills in themselves and their colleagues.
- Participants engage in self-reflection to improve their own methods and techniques.

The Process:

Teaching Squares was piloted successfully during the Fall, 2011 semester. While you have the flexibility to work with your square partners and schedule your observations, you should try to be available for **both all-square sessions** planned for:

- **Friday, February 10th from 3:00-4:00 pm** (*initial instructions and planning with all teaching square participants present---bring 4 copies of your teaching schedule*) and
- **Friday, April 13th from 3:00-4:00 pm** (*closing celebration of all teaching square participants*).

Both sessions are scheduled in the **East Peoria Tranquility Room**. Your class observations and your 4 square-share session will occur within the weeks between February 10th and April 13th.

If you would like to participate, **please RSVP** to the **Teaching and Learning Center (TLC) at 694-8908 or tlc@icc.edu by Friday, February 2nd**. If you have additional questions, contact Kari Schimmel at 694-5590, Sarah Parlier at 694-5186 or Janice Kinsinger at 694-5758.

