



## Teaching Circles – Year 2

### What are Teaching Circles?

The **Teaching Circles** Project attempts to improve teaching and build community through a structured, non-evaluative process of classroom observation and shared reflection.

A **Teaching Circle** consists of a small group faculty participants (ideally from different disciplines) who:

- Observe at least one class taught by each Circle Partner
- Reflect on the class observation experience
- Share reflections with Circle Partners
- Share Circle observations with Project participants as a whole

**Your Teaching Circles experience offers you the opportunity to improve your own teaching by observing your Circle Partners in an actual classroom situation.**

By participating in the Teaching Circles Project you will have an opportunity to:

- observe, analyze and celebrate good teaching
- increase your understanding of and appreciation for the work of colleagues
- experience the joy and confusion of being a student
- formulate a plan for enhancing your own teaching based on your observations and reflections and the shared reflections of your Circle Partners.

### Cornerstones for Participants

Teaching Circles is unique in offering a classroom visitation process free from evaluation.

The Cornerstones of Teaching Circles are the positive attitudes and behaviours 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.

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|---------------------------------------|----------------|
| Reciprocity and Shared Responsibility | Appreciation   |
| Self-Referential Reflection           | Mutual Respect |