**Application Form—*Due May 1, 2014***

**Faculty Learning Community Fall 2014 through Spring 2015**

***Contemplative Pedagogy***

***Faculty Co-Facilitators: Sarah Leupen, Biological Sciences and Robin Barry, Psychology***

Contemplative pedagogy refers to a range of teaching methods that integrate meditative or other contemplative practices into teaching, with the goal of cultivating increased focus, concentration, and self-knowledge in our students. Methods range from having students perform a reflective reading assignment to using a visualization of a biological process to training students in mindfulness techniques. Research suggests that these contemplative forms of inquiry can mitigate the effects of our hyper-distracted culture on students. These techniques not only improve student achievement of our learning objectives, but also increase students’ empathy, interpersonal skills and self-awareness. Instructors have found that such methods can connect them more meaningfully to their students and renew their engagement with teaching.

We will explore the theory and practice of contemplative pedagogy. During the fall semester, we will read on the topic and try out various contemplative practices in our own group. In the spring, we’ll each experiment with the use of a contemplative teaching technique in one of our own classes, learning from our own as well as each other’s experiences. We will also plan ways to assess and evaluate how adding contemplative pedagogies impact our students’ learning.

Name:\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

Office Phone:\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

Department:\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

Email Address:\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

Course(s) that you teach: \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

Status:

\_\_\_\_ Tenure-track faculty

\_\_\_\_ Lecturer/ Senior Lecturer

\_\_\_\_ Part-time faculty/ Adjunct

Number of years teaching/working at UMBC: \_\_\_\_\_\_

Please provide a response to the following questions:

1. Why would you like to participate in this faculty learning community?

2. Do you have some expertise, experience or information relevant to this topic? If so, please describe briefly. If not, what drives your interest in learning about and applying contemplative pedagogy?

3. What type of change to your existing teaching might you be interested in making, with regard to the topic of this FLC; or, if you have already implemented a change, then in what way would you like to study the effect of this change in your teaching?

Please send an electronic copy of your application to Linda Hodges at the Faculty Development Center at lhodges@umbc.edu. **Please attach a schedule grid with weekly time availability for FLC meetings and a confirmed fall semester schedule if available.**

**Applicant’s Signature**

If I am selected as a participant in the Faculty Learning Community on ***Contemplative Pedagogy***, I agree to participate fully in the community’s activities.

I will participate in the meetings, readings, projects and reports associated with this learning community. I will share things I learn with other faculty members.

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Applicant’s Signature Date

**Department Chair’s/Supervisor’s Signature**

I endorse the above applicant’s participation in the Faculty Learning Community Flipped-Classroom Pedagogies and will value the curricular and pedagogical work completed by acknowledging the time commitment required by the FLC.

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Chair’s/Supervisor’s Signature Date

Checklist:

Schedule grid \_\_\_\_\_

Chairperson signature \_\_\_\_\_

Application Form \_\_\_\_\_