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**Report of CTL-funded Initiative:
Community-Based Learning Initiative speaker event**

In the fall of 2005, the CTL generously funded \$100 to pay for food provided during a lunch seminar hosted by the Community-Based Learning Initiative (CBLI) on the Middletown campus. Geared toward Middletown faculty and staff, the seminar featured a panel of three speakers from Northern Kentucky University (E. Miles Wilson, Director of the Scripps Howard Center for Civic Engagement at NKU, Professor Barbara Wallace, Coordinator of Service-Learning, and one of Dr. Wallace's students) who discussed the Civic Engagement program at NKU, including an in-depth look at one of Dr. Wallace's service-learning courses, "College Writing," and insights on the service-learning experience from her student.

The CBLI's goals in hosting this event were to generate interest and participation in our faculty organization, to introduce CBL pedagogies instructors in any discipline can use to enhance their courses, and to begin fostering meaningful collaboration among MUM faculty and with local community agencies. While the event did not generate the turnout I had hoped for, approximately 20 faculty and staff did attend. In addition to enjoying the CTL-funded lunch menu, the attendees engaged in lively and productive discussion of service-learning pedagogy and the creation of service-learning initiatives such as the CBLI. I subsequently heard from a number of the faculty in attendance who inquired about or expressed interest in the services offered by the CBLI—indications that our first two goals were met, albeit on a small scale. Some of these faculty have continued to seek support and guidance from the CBLI in developing CBL projects for their courses, as well. Unfortunately, no representatives from local community agencies attended the seminar, so our third goal was not met.

Ultimately, the seminar represented a small but significant step in the CBLI's efforts to generate interest, discussion, and participation in our group's initiatives. And, as food is always certain to attract participants in such seminars, the CTL's support of this event was helpful—and greatly appreciated.

Sincerely,

Eric Melbye