

Research Incentive Fund Report

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Project

I was accepted to and attended the 2023 Teaching the Teachers Workshop in Houston, Texas, which took place May 18-19. This professional development workshop focused on evidence-based instructional strategies and instructional design for newer-to-teaching law librarians. Experienced legal research instructors introduced participants to such principles as cognitive theory, backward design, and assessment creation.

The workshop also provided the opportunity for participants to develop their teaching skills through hands-on mentoring. I, along with two other law librarians, were assigned to an experienced instructional librarian to work on individual teaching projects.

Research Objective

My specific goal for the conference was to expand and improve upon my 2-credit Advanced Legal Research course through creating new lecture materials, research assignments and evaluations, and teaching strategies.

Final Project Outcome

- Revised the learning objectives in the course's syllabus using the SMART guidelines (**S**pecific, **M**easurable, **A**chievable, **R**elevant, and **T**argeted).
- Created new and interactive in-class exercises for topics such as evaluating legal authority, secondary sources, caselaw, and regulations. These in-class exercises are interspersed with lectures and provide students dedicated time to practice their research skills before being assessed through a graded assignment.
- Incorporated robust research assignments as formative assessments for each of the four course modules. These assignments challenge students to apply the research skills learned during class to nuanced hypothetical legal problems.
- Devised an open-memo-style final research project that simulates a legal research problem the students will likely encounter in the practice of law.
- Designated one session for class discussion on AI and the future of legal research.