Many professors prepare great lectures. When the students don’t really get the material, we might assume that there is something wrong with the students. However, key research findings show that standard college teaching methods are often comparatively ineffective, even when the students are working reasonably hard, and especially with regard to non-traditional students. Research also suggests alternative, more effective approaches to teaching that can lead to greatly increased student success in any course. Very large gains are especially well documented for science and math related courses, i.e. in the STEM disciplines (including in courses that have often served as “killer courses.”)

Through a combination of mini-lectures, writing and discussion, Dr. Nelson will guide participants in examining key pedagogical changes that make real differences in achievement and retention, and will help them see how these approaches might apply to their own teaching.

Specific topics will include:

- Radically reducing or eliminating low grades without lowering standards
- Making students brighter and harder working using only 1 hour of class time, in ways that level the playing field for all groups
- Fair and effective assessment systems
- The data and reasoning for incorporating key technological enhancements including the effectiveness of student response systems and useful web-based learning

CRAIG E. NELSON received a Ph.D. in Zoology from the University of Texas in 1966. He is Professor Emeritus of Biology at Indiana University (where he has been since 1966) and a Carnegie Scholar. He was founding president of the International Society for the Scholarship of Teaching and Learning (SOTL). His research addresses critical thinking, mature valuing, diversity, active learning, evolution and SOTL. He has presented workshops at many national meetings and at hundreds of individual institutions (in 37 states and 8 countries). His biological research (60+ articles) has been on evolution and ecology. Several recent awards include the 2001 President’s Medal for Excellence (IU) and the Carnegie Foundation’s Outstanding Research and Doctoral University Professor of the Year 2000.

- Hourly stipend and compensation plan available
- Multiple disciplines will be addressed (including discussion of STEM disciplines)
- Lunch provided
- Must RSVP

Event Website and registration info: http://www.ccd.edu/CASA-Programs/nelson.aspx

Contact Instructional Specialist Kathy.Lein@ccd.edu or 303-352-3218 for more details