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The atmosphere in our department fosters discussion and support of new teaching and learning strategies. We talk across the disciplines about what we’ve tried and what works. People get excited about innovations they’ve tried, and that excitement is contagious. The discussions often take place when we gather for lunch each day and sometimes occur at department meetings.

Our deans have been very supportive of me and my colleagues’ pursuit of a grant to learn more about the POGIL method of teaching and authoring POPGIL exercises. Especially since we waited until the very last minute to submit our grant applications, and they required all kinds of signatures from various people around campus!

Also Brenda Lyseng and Kim Loomis worked on a CTL/STEM grant “Focus on Introductory science courses”, which included faculty development workshops by college faculty for other faculty. I participated in one!

Have also been encouraged to attend PKAL workshops, and participate in Teaching Circles program.