

All science faculty members are invited to attend a workshop on Problem-Based Learning (PBL) on September 22-23, 2006 at the Shisler Conference Center. George Watson of the University of Delaware (UD) will facilitate the workshop in three sessions, Friday evening and Saturday morning and afternoon. Basic principles of PBL will be presented along with strategies for working with groups and development of PBL materials. Workshop materials will be posted beforehand at <www.udel.edu/pbl/wooster/>.

PBL is an instructional strategy that promotes active learning. PBL can be used as a framework for modules, courses, programs, or curricula. Some of the objectives and outcomes of PBL include improved: problem-solving skills, self-directed learning skills, ability to find and use appropriate resources, critical thinking, ability to work on a team, and effective communication skills. The University of Delaware is a leading institution in the nation to implement PBL in undergraduate courses across diverse disciplines and in classes of any size.

George Watson is Senior Associate Dean in the College of Arts & Sciences and Unidel Professor of Physics and Astronomy at the University of Delaware. He joined the faculty in 1987 after completing a postdoctoral position at AT&T Bell Laboratories, with a Ph.D. in physics from the University of Delaware. Among his personal teaching interests are problem-based learning, and web-based delivery of instructional materials for development of science and technology literacy among non-science majors, and curriculum reform of engineering physics courses. His physics research interests are in condensed matter experimental physics.

George was the 1998 Delaware Professor of the Year, awarded by the Carnegie Foundation for the Advancement of Teaching. He was the principal investigator on the grant from NSF's program on Institution-Wide Reform of Undergraduate Education that led to the creation of the Institute for Transforming Undergraduate Education, which promotes faculty development and course redesign around active learning strategies and effective use of instructional technology. ITUE has become an international resource for training in problem-based learning in the undergraduate setting. Recently George was the principal investigator on an ALO/USAID project to reform science and math education in Perú and he is currently the PI for the NSF GK-12 project at the University of Delaware. Additional information is available at www.physics.udel.edu/~watson