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Faculty to teach faculty at panel

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Professors will educate professors Wednesday at "The Teaching Professor" panel hosted by Faculty Development.

"We're going to be talking about our experiences at this conference, which was focused on ideas for teaching, creating closer communities on campus,

everything from grading to service learning," said political science professor Melinda Mueller.

Mueller; Mildred Pearson, director of faculty development; and four other professors: Rose Gong, a secondary education and foundations professor; Karla Kennedy-Hagan a family and consumer sciences professor; Sally Turner, a journalism professor; and Bill

Addison, a psychology professor attended The Teaching Professor Conference last May hosted by the Teaching Newsletter and Magna Publications.

The panel, which will last from noon to 1 p.m. in the Paris Room of the Martin Luther King Jr. University Union, gives the professors who attended the conference the opportunity to share what they learned with their colleagues.

"The Teaching Professor Conference was small enough to take away grand and large ideas," Pearson said. "Faculty members will benefit from the Teaching Professor panel discussion by hearing faculty share information given while

attending the conference. The panel members will share their handouts and hands-on experiences from the conference."

Mueller said her favorite session was about creating community connections on campus. It suggested starting book clubs and creating activities with graduate students to strengthen the relationship between the campus and community.

"I liked it because I thought we could apply it pretty easily on Eastern's campus," she said.

Turner, who will be unable to attend the panel because she's attending a journalism conference, said that the teaching

conference was "amazing" because attendees discussed what goes on in their classrooms.

"The idea is that you come to this profession, almost all of us did, from other things," she said. "So you go into this classroom really with no education about how to be a teacher. It's not like secondary ed where you study teaching techniques, you don't.

"So suddenly you go into this classroom and you hope you're being effective. You have test scores and maybe kids are learning something, but this is an opportunity to talk to people about how to be a good or effective teacher."