

## **CENTER FOR FACULTY EXCELLENCE PROMOTES TEACHING AND SCHOLARSHIP**

*(From: Rivier Today, Fall 2010)*

“When we think about the ways a single teacher can touch the lives of many students, the ripple is a wondrous thing.”

— Dr. Timothy Doherty, Director of Center for Faculty Excellence

**R**ivier College has formalized a Center for Faculty Excellence. Dr. Timothy Doherty has been named Director; in that role he will plan, coordinate, and implement programs that enhance faculty as teachers and scholars. “In collaboration with several constituencies that include the Divisional Chairpersons, the Faculty Senate Development Committee, the Office of Information Technology, and the five divisions, the Director will seek ways to foster a culture of dialogue and innovation related to faculty teaching and scholarship,” says Sr. Therese Larochelle p.m. ’72/’75G, Vice President for Academic Affairs.

Doherty says he’s interested in the core principles of good teaching. As Director of Rivier’s Writing Across the Curriculum program for the last 10 years, he has been offering workshops for all faculty on ways to improve students’ writing skills; his new role allows him to explore excellence in teaching and learning on a broader scale.

The Faculty Senate’s Development Committee helped shape the vision of what development should be on campus. Doherty has surveyed faculty to determine what issues of teaching and learning are most important to them. The results of the survey, coupled with the College’s strategic goals, will drive the Center for Faculty Excellence’s programming. This fall’s programs include workshops on coaching critical thinking in different disciplines and on teaching through a Catholic lens. Doherty is also exploring ways to evaluate the impact of such programs on faculty teaching.

“Everything I’m doing for faculty development supports the College’s mission,” Doherty says. “When we talk about transforming hearts and minds, faculty are not exempt. When we think about the ways a single teacher can touch the lives of many students, the ripple is a wondrous thing.” ■