Many new graduate assistants receive little guidance as new teachers. Learning from mistakes is valuable, but there is a better way to start the teaching process. This workshop, suitable for those who are teaching and those who are yet to teach, will explore ten key principles for effective teaching, including:

- Clarify and communicate learning objectives
- Implement proven pedagogical tools
- Use technology to support learning
- Deal effectively with difficult situations
- Grade efficiently
- Find support before things go wrong

This tour of teaching principles will help you achieve a strong start in your teaching career.

The Starting Strong workshop also serves as an introduction to Team Mentoring for Graduate Assistants, a semester-long program designed to help you teach better, enjoy it more, and earn higher teaching evaluations. Mentoring has been shown to have a positive impact on the performance of new instructors.

In this program, you will meet weekly with a team of peer-mentors and a more experienced facilitator, Dr. David Smith. You will share and encourage each other regarding current issues you encounter in your teaching. You will also interview a mentor of your choice twice, ask him or her questions you and your team members have generated about teaching and share your mentors’ answers with your team.

The time commitment for Team Mentoring is about two hours per week throughout the program. Starting Strong workshop participants are encouraged, but not required, to join Team Mentoring.

Successful participants in Team Mentoring will be honored as sustaining members of the Teaching Academy at the Gala in April, 2013. By earning a sustaining membership, successful participants will be counted among the second highest group of Teaching Academy members. Last year, out of almost 2,000 educators on-campus (full and part-time faculty and graduate students), about 70 earned this level of membership. Talk about a résumé stuffer!

Team Mentoring Weekly Meetings
Tuesday section: 3–4:30 p.m., September 25–November 13, inclusive
Wednesday section: 3–4:30 p.m., September 26–November 14, inclusive
Milton Hall Room 50

David E. Smith received his Ph.D. in Chemistry from U.C. Berkeley in 1989 and joined the faculty of NMSU’s Department of Chemistry and Biochemistry in 1994. He teaches extensively in general chemistry and is very familiar with teaching strategies and pedagogical tools for classes of all sizes, including laboratory classes. He has frequently been recognized as a Distinguished Member of the NMSU Teaching Academy where he regularly explores ways to enhance his students’ learning experience. He is also the recipient of the NMSU Teaching Academy’s Innovation Award (2009) and Best Workshop Award (2011), with both awards related to the use of remote response devices (clickers) in the classroom.

Registration is required at teaching.nmsu.edu. If you have problems registering online, call 646–2204 for help.