Cognitive CourseWares Project and The Carnegie Mellon Open Learning Initiative  
Thursday, February 23 • 9:30–11 a.m.
The Association of Public and Land-grant Universities (APLU), the American Association of Community Colleges (AACC), and the Open Learning Initiative (OLI) of Carnegie-Mellon University have partnered to undertake a national initiative to develop cognitive coursewares (online courses based on current learning theory). The initiative is a rare opportunity for faculty to work with colleagues from other colleges and universities and with national leaders in instructional design, learning science, and instructional technology to collaboratively develop courseware to support teaching and learning in introductory courses. In this talk, I will give a brief overview of the goals and national setting for the initiative. NMSU has been selected to participate in this project. Faculty roles in the coursewares development process will be a central topic. This talk is for all faculty and administrators who are interested in learning about the project.

The Science of Learning and The Carnegie Mellon Open Learning Initiative  
Thursday, February 23 • 1:30–3 p.m.
Using intelligent tutoring systems, virtual laboratories, simulations, and frequent opportunities for assessment and feedback, The Open Learning Initiative (OLI) at Carnegie Mellon University is creating and evaluating a collection of web-based learning environments that support learning and serve as a laboratory for fundamental research on human learning. In this talk I will give a brief overview of the goals and methods of the Science of Learning, demonstrate how we make use of expertise from the science of learning to produce high-quality learning environments, and discuss how studies of student use of OLI environments inform the next iteration of the OLI environment and the underlying learning theory.

Candace Thille, Ph.D., is the director of the Open Learning Initiative (OLI) at Carnegie Mellon University, a position she has held since the program’s inception in 2002. She is also the co-director of OLnet. Jointly run by Carnegie Mellon and the Open University in the UK, OLnet is an international open educational research network. Candace’s focus of research and development is in applying results from the learning sciences to the design, implementation and evaluation of open web-based learning environments. She recently served on a working group at the U.S. Department of Education to write the National Education Technology Plan and is currently serving on a working group of the President’s Council of Advisors on Science and Technology (PCAST) to write a report for the Obama Administration on improving STEM (Science Technology Engineering and Math) Higher Education.