Dr. Woelk joined Missouri S&T in 2003 and since that time has made significant strides in enhancing the educational experience for students through the use of technology in classrooms. He initiated technology in introductory chemistry courses, which allows him to gauge student understanding and comprehension of information presented in class, as well as delayed multiple-choice inquiry strategies. He also encourages student texting of questions via cell phone or laptop.

Dr. Woelk currently serves as director of the Missouri S&T New Faculty Forum, faculty advisor for online homework and clicker systems, and mentors faculty in many disciplines to develop their teaching skills. He previously served as acting director of the New Faculty Teaching Scholarship program on campus. He has won several awards, including the coveted “Love Your Class” award from freshmen engineers and the 2009 Missouri S&T Faculty Teaching Excellence Award.

One nominator writes, Dr. Woelk’s “zest for knowledge, thoughtful opinions and guarded loyalty in the pursuit of teaching excellence in many ways reflects what the President’s Innovative Teaching Award seeks to promote and recognize.”