Building a New Culture of Teaching and Learning

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“The search is on for new and more powerful ways to engage today’s diverse students, but campuses need more than new techniques. They need to build a culture where these new approaches can take hold and thrive.”

–Building a New Culture of Teaching and Learning
Hutchings, 1996
Goals for Today’s Session

- Identify the indicators that characterize and contribute to a culture of teaching and learning – WHAT ARE WE TALKING ABOUT?

- Strategize about levers for cultivating a culture of teaching and learning in your setting – HOW DO WE BUILD IT?

- Share good ideas, challenges, successes.
1. (individually): Where does your campus lie on this continuum?

2. (in pairs): Please introduce yourselves and explain your response to #1. What indicators influenced your rating?
It’s About Pedagogy

We now know:

- A good deal more about how students learn
- With effective teaching, students learn more
- What works pedagogically to support learning
It's About Scaffolding
“At the core is pedagogy. But to successfully institutionalize the use of evidence-based teaching practices, what is necessary is scaffolding, or support for faculty and students, and larger cultural change.”

- AAU, 2014.
A Framework For Change

(Austin, 2011; Sorcinelli, 2014)
Levers for Change: Professional Development

- Build “communities of conversation” where educators can talk together about their work with students and with one another.

- Feed those conversations with evidence—from reading, SoTL, assessment.

- Make FD functional and efficient—connected to regular faculty work (assignment/course design, etc).
Levers for Change: Resources

- Advocate for time to learn, plan, experiment with new pedagogies—creative scheduling.

- Find time-efficient incentives (e.g. course release, summer salary, “embedded expertise” such as undergrad or grad teaching fellows, postdocs, travel).

- Involve students as a resource and a lever for change.
Levers for Change: Incentives and Rewards

- Tap into low-hanging fruit—grants, stipends, other kinds of awards.
- Work toward merit, promotion, and tenure policies that value teaching as scholarly work.
- Which means requiring robust evidence for the evaluation of teaching—including evidence of student learning.
Levers for Change: Leadership

- Make T&L visible from the top with stories, rituals, symbols, and data.
- Focus on the department as a key unit for pedagogical reform and culture building.
- Work toward a shared vision of equity-minded excellence: the learning all students need to flourish in the 21st century.
1. What indicators of a culture of T&L are most fully developed or powerful on your campus?

2. What ONE lesson can you share from your table discussion about building a campus culture of teaching and learning?
Take-Aways
Resources


- Bay View Alliance: www.bayviewalliance.org


National Institute for Learning Outcomes Assessment: [www.learningoutcomesassessment.org](http://www.learningoutcomesassessment.org)


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