Exploring Seven Principles of Learning and Their Impact on Teaching

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Abstract
 This workshop represents a bridge between research and practice. It introduces seven principles of learning that we have distilled from the research on learning, drawn from domains such as cognitive, developmental, and social psychology; education; and diversity studies. As a result, our seven principles come from a perspective that is developmental and holistic. We begin with the recognition that learning is a developmental process that intersects with other developmental processes in a student's life, and that students enter our classrooms not only with skills, knowledge and abilities, but also with social and emotional experiences that influence what they value, how they perceive themselves and others, and how they will engage in the learning process. These principles are domain-independent; experience-independent; and cross-culturally relevant.

This workshop is highly interactive, and will ask participants to discuss how the principles instantiate themselves in the courses they teach, educational materials they create, and so on.

1. Intended audience

Faculty members teaching undergraduate and/or graduate students who are interested in using what we know from the learning sciences to design and teach better courses and learning experiences.

2. Materials provided

(1) Paper and electronic copies of workshop slides.

3. Rough Agenda

1. Introduction and Setting the Context. *15 minutes*.

2. Introduction to each principle, time for group to discuss how each principle is/can be instantiated into their discipline or the courses they are teaching (sometimes in small groups and sometimes in the larger group), and time for debriefing for the small group work when we do it. *2.5 hours*

3. Summary and Conclusion. 15 minutes

4. Audio/Visual and Computer requirements

A digital projector for presenters and a flipchart with pens.

5. Space and Enrollment restrictions

No special restrictions. For some of the discussion we will use small groups of 5-7 people, so it would help if the space provided allowed for shifting of chairs to enable this.

6. Other critical information

The principles presented and discussed in this session will be published in a book by Jossey-Bass in Spring of 2010.