Teaching and Learning Resources Committee
Spring 2018 Mini-Conference

The Future(s) of Higher Education

Friday, April 6, 2018

Lightning Talks 12 – 1:30p
Presentation Abstracts

Student Success in College: Creating Conditions That Matter

Usama Shaikh (Student Affairs)

Institutions of higher education continue to address the national concern of improving the quality of undergraduate education through the creation of conditions that enhance student learning and support students in achieving their educational goals. This presentation will focus on identifying qualities that typify high-performing institutions of higher education and how we can adapt their practices in our daily work, inside and outside of the classroom, at SUNY Old Westbury to the benefit our students present and future.

Food Insecurity in Higher Education: Crisis Management Needed

Cris Notaro (Arts & Sciences)

Hunger is a national concern and it is being recognized more frequently within campus communities. Food insecurity among students is a danger to successful college completion and consequently, the missions of institutions of higher education. To combat this threat, colleges and universities should include food insecurity in their strategic plans and/or crisis management strategies.

Micro-Credentials

Ed Bever (School of Professional Studies)

Micro-Credentials are awards given to students for the achievement of specific sets of skills or competencies. These can be achieved through credit or non-credit work, which can be distributed across a variety of courses or activities and measured by performance on specific assessments, or contained in a defined set of courses or activities and measured by their correspondence to learning outcomes or activities' objectives. Micro-Credentials are being awarded by an increasing number of accredited institutions of higher learning, and a Task Force of the SUNY Faculty Advisory Council on Teaching and Technology recently issued a report with guidelines for their adoption by SUNY schools, which the SUNY Board of Trustees unanimously endorsed at its January 2018 meeting.

In my lightning talk I will give a brief overview of the types of Micro-credentials and their uses, SUNY's policies and recommendations, and how they might be used at Old Westbury.

Does it matter that they love children? Teacher Education Today

Nancy Brown (School of Education)

We live in an age in which many politicians, researchers, policymakers, and administrators have too much faith that they can put a number on a teacher's worth. Yet, qualitative and quantitative data suggest that we can't simply put numbers on what teachers do. I will discuss the changes that have occurred in teacher education and how these changes will impact higher education.

Assessments, Learning Objectives and Teaching Strategies

Costas Hadjicharalambous (Management, Marketing, and Finance)

This lightning talk highlights the importance of alignment of assessments, learning objectives, and teaching strategies. Assessments reveal how well students have learned what we want them to learn while teaching strategies ensures that they learn it. For this to occur, assessments, learning objectives, and teaching strategies need to be closely aligned so that they reinforce one another.

The topic is relevant to both (a) pedagogical innovations, and (b) changes to the system of higher education— i.e., the influx of online course offerings, where alignment is even more critical. The presentation introduces and briefly explains the Course Design Matrix (CDM), a tool faculty utilize to attain this alignment.

Prep Videos for Math Courses

Jennie D'Ambroise (Mathematics)

In certain math courses I require that students watch a preparatory YouTube video before arriving to class. In this short talk I will cover topics such as: video quality control, logistics, accessibility, recommended practices, appropriateness of videos for certain topics, grading, advantages to videos, and more. If you would like to prepare for this talk in advance of the conference you can view my Welcome To Class video on the Prof. Jennie D. YouTube channel at the following url: https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=LOgjMTLFXXc

Creating Online Videos

Kasia Platt (Management, Marketing, and Finance)

Online courses are here to stay, whether we like it or not. I will discuss creating online videos for our online courses in terms of content, length, format, methods, and best practices.

The Roles of Kinesthetic and Virtual Environments in Understanding Wave Motion

Fernando Espinoza (Chemistry & Physics; Adolescence Education)

The study of wave motion based on the properties and relationships that waves exhibit is extremely useful, and can facilitate descriptions of phenomena that apparently don't have anything in common. The unique features displayed by waves can greatly enhance one's knowledge of the natural world. Their applications aren't limited to just natural science, they can be found in the social sciences as well, and in other areas of study such as economics in dealing with market forces and other human affairs. However, enormous challenges exist for student understanding due primarily to their attribution of properties from other areas that are not possessed by waves, as well as the duality of an absence of perceptual features combined with the conceptually counter-intuitive nature of those displayed by waves. Research integrating kinesthetic and virtual environments in dealing with properties of mechanical waves strongly suggests that there are significant cognitive benefits for students.

Beyond 3d Printing: Digital Fabrication in the Classroom

Eric Hagan (Visual Arts)

Digital fabrication promises the ability to fabricate your exact creative and practical ideas through an easily accessible, iterative design process. This technique in the classroom can go beyond the popular vernacular of "3d printing." My talk will introduce the audience quickly to programmatic drawing and design software, various digital fabrication machines, and material possibilities for small scale fabrication available in the average maker space studio. I will place emphasis on easily accessible standards of practice, safety, and possible avenues for usage beyond plastic tchotchkes. I also plan to include examples of successful classroom projects I have used in teaching these machines. There is a real power inherent in having control over the fabrication of your own objects. This combination of technology and artistic practice go hand in hand and allow for new collaborations between different disciplines.

tegrating Environmental Research into the Community Engagement Seminar

Barbara Hillery (Arts & Sciences)

CL 2300 was designed to integrate community based learning and action into the sophomore year, encouraging active learning and the development of research skills through structured service-learning activities. This talk gives a lightning overview of the use of iMapsInvasives, a GIS-based data management system, to implement pedagogical innovation focused on developing citizen scientists, using the Old Westbury campus as a living laboratory.

My students don't talk. What can I do?

Kate Velsor (Childhood Education and Literacy)

So there you are ... asking a question and the students' heads are all down looking at their shoes. You had planned a discussion for at least 15 minutes. How can you change the moment?

Embedding a Virtual Exchange into Your Course

Andrew Hashey (Exceptional Education)

Virtual exchanges are a technology-based pedagogical innovation through which faculty connect their students with peers from across the globe, without the time or financial requirements associated with traditional study abroad programs. The SUNY COIL (Collaborative Online International Learning) Center is dedicated to supporting faculty who wish to integrate this emerging form of international exchange into their coursework.

I have integrated virtual exchanges into two recent courses in partnership with the American University of Technology, in Lebanon. The COIL partnership brought my students into communication and collaboration with peers from Lebanon and Turkey over the course of a joint 5-week module. Among other objectives, the COIL module aims to bolster students' intercultural understanding and communication skills, and leverages technology as a means to bridge cultures. This presentation will highlight faculty and student survey data from my Fall 2017 COIL collaboration, and recap the basic steps in developing a COIL partnership.

Live Interactive Student Lecture Participation

Veronika Dolar (Politics, Economics, & Law)

The purpose of the talk is to introduce a novel uses of "technology" in the classroom. I will prepare a hands-on mini lecture using interactive Poll Everywhere software. The purpose of the lecture will be to demonstrate how instructors can capture student attention and engage even the most introverted and withdrawn students with this technology.

In order to be ready for participation in this interactive lecture please follow these instructions:

- On your computers or tables go to your web browser and type in: **PollEV.com/veronikadola681**

OR

- Install the PollEverywhere app (for iOS or Android)

The Two Sides of Auto-Grading

Ashok Basawapatna (Mathematics/Computer and Information Science)

Currently, technology allows for computer programs to be auto-graded. Furthermore, current research indicates that essay submissions can already be auto-grade assisted, or at least have some component of automatic feedback. If such systems were to reach wider distribution, one wonders how that might affect the classroom environment. I currently use auto-grading in my C++ programming class, and some of the results and student reactions experienced have been unexpected. This talk will focus on the surprising and emergent impacts of auto-grading, both positive and negative observed in my classroom, and outline concerns moving forward.