Faculty Learning Communities

• A voluntary, structured, year-long, multi-disciplinary community of practice focused on a specific project.
• Community can include graduate students & support staff, so many are calling these Professional Learning Communities.
Professional Learning Communities

- Multi-disciplinarity attracts participants
  - Curiosity about teaching & learning in other units
  - Richness of innovations encountered across disciplines
  - Desire to spend time away from own departmental culture
Professional Learning Communities

- Topic-based
  - Develops structure to address specific campus issue
  - Participants can represent all faculty/instructor ranks and groups
Contemplative Pedagogy F/PLC

• From the Proposal:
  – …coordinate the efforts of an interdisciplinary Faculty Learning Community that identifies core learning outcomes for UA contemplative pedagogy; creates a catalogue of instructional assessment tools; undertakes pedagogy trials across campus, organizes curriculum development workshops and a conference based upon findings; and creates a website featuring videos and a blog to engage and educate the campus community.
Contemplative Pedagogy F/PLC

• Fall 2014
  – Process
    • Learn more about range of contemplative pedagogy practices (CPPs) in use across campus.
    • Identify CPPs to incorporate into Spring 2015 courses.
    • Identify appropriate learning outcomes for chosen CPPs.
    • Identify activities to assess learning outcomes for chosen CPPs.
  – Product
    • Revised Spring 2015 syllabus that includes CPP, associated learning outcomes and assessment activities
Contemplative Pedagogy F/PLC

- Fall 2014
  - Meetings
    - Experienced practitioners of CPPs facilitate 2-3 sessions each on their CPP and associated learning outcomes and assessment activities (~October & November).
    - Novice/potential practitioners attend session(s) of their choice to learn about CPPs.
    - Final meetings of F/PLCs, sorted by chosen CPP, to refine and share plans for Spring 2015 pedagogy trials (~early-mid December)
Contemplative Pedagogy F/PLC

• Spring 2015
  – Process
    • CPPs and assessment activities implemented in participants’ courses (pedagogy trials).
    • Participants encouraged to visit each others’ classes to see CPPs in action.
  – Product
    • Assessment findings from use of CPPs
    • Plans for Fall 2015 implementation (further pedagogy trials)
Contemplative Pedagogy F/PLC

- Spring 2015
  - Meetings
    - Groups relatively fixed by CPP to build community
    - Discussions of CPP implementation and assessment activities
Contemplative Pedagogy F/PLC

- Fall 2015-Early Spring 2016
  - F/PLC continues to meet.
  - CPPs continue to spread across campus.
- Spring 2016
  - Conference to showcase use of CPPs and impact on student learning outcomes
Contemplative Pedagogy F/PLC

• Next Steps
  – Complete survey so that we can identify experienced practitioners and organize fall sessions.
  – Invite potential facilitators (experienced practitioners) to share their experience with CPPs and assessment activities with the rest of the community.

• http://cpflc.arizona.edu
How We Can Help You:

- Building Course & Faculty Websites
- Training and Support for Course Management Tools
- Assessment and Evaluation
- Classroom Observation
- Instructional Design
- Instructional Blogging
- Usability Testing for Websites
- Database/Programming Support
- Emerging Technologies
- Adapting Open Source Applications
- Graphic Design Services for Instructional Purposes
- Audio and Video Services for your classes

Ingrid Novodvorsky
Director, Teaching, Learning & Assessment
520-626-4187
novod@email.arizona.edu

The Office of Instruction and Assessment at The University of Arizona
The Manual Pacheco Integrated Learning Center, 1500 East University Blvd, Tucson, AZ 85721-0070
520-626-2621
Fax 520-626-8220
http://oia.arizona.edu