



Faculty Learning Communities

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

Ingrid Novodvorsky
Director, Teaching, Learning & Assessment

520-626-2621
Fax 520-626-8220

<http://oia.arizona.edu>

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
Database and Programming Support



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Ingrid Novodvorsky
Director, Teaching, Learning & Assessment
520-626-4187
novod@email.arizona.edu
<http://oia.arizona.edu>

520-626-2621
Fax 520-626-8220

<http://oia.arizona.edu>