



Agriculture Workforce Training For Collaborative Leadership

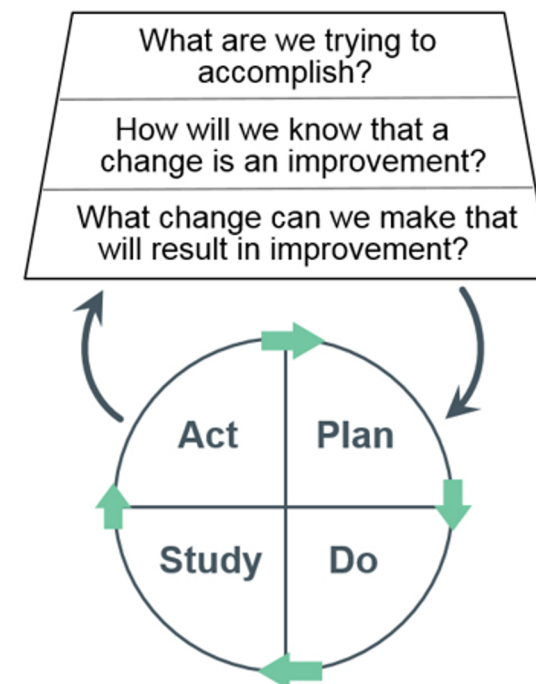
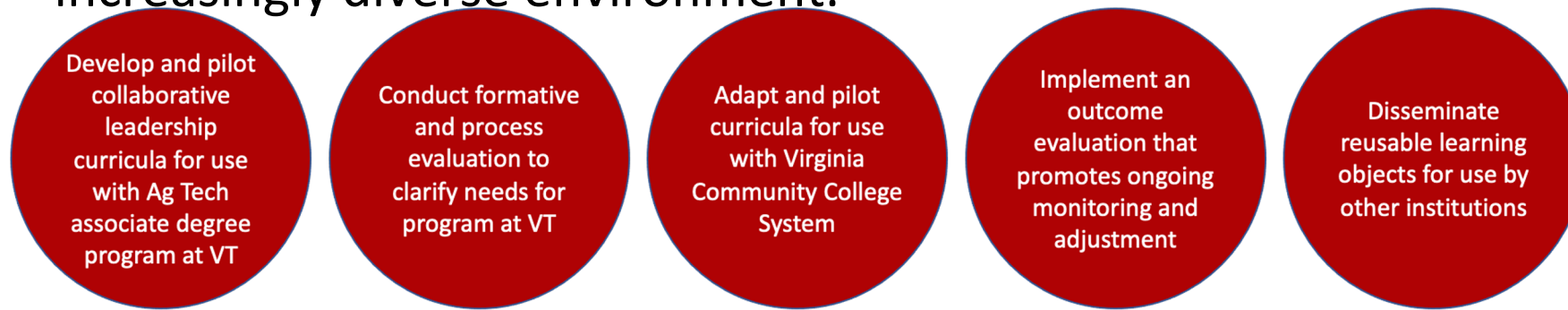
Agricultural Workforce Training Grants
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Project Background & Introduction

- As America's workforce changes, so does the nature of work & the skills necessary for SUCCESS (Flores, Matkin, Burbach, Quinn, & Harding, 2012).
- Agricultural employers increasingly need a workforce that effectively engages in collaborative leadership (Alston, Anderson, English, & Wakefield, 2018; Clayton, 2016).
- This project will design, develop, and evaluate leadership curricula for technical and community colleges to use to prepare the agriculture workforce for effective leadership in an increasingly diverse environment.



Implementation Challenges

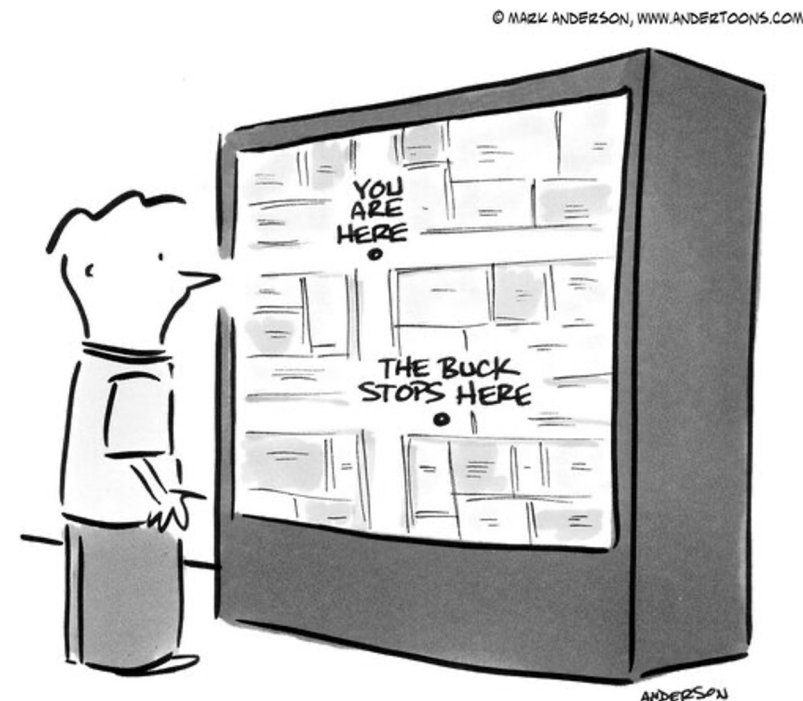
- Change in local program leadership
- Diversity among community college programs
- Limited partnerships between VT CALS and CC faculty prior to this project
- Co-creation of learning experiences
- Virtual meetings and professional learning
- Maintaining communication & engagement
 - Google drive for sharing files
 - VCCS Canvas site for cohort communication
 - Regularity with Zoom meetings



"We ditched the open office. Now we're going free range."

Accomplishments & Outcomes

- Focus group participants validated APLU report on employability skills (a.k.a. “durable skills”)
- New VT Ag Tech internship assessment & feedback
- Enhanced VT Ag Tech first-semester seminar
- 13 VCCS faculty from 9 colleges piloting curricular enhancements related to teaching professionalism, asking questions, and incorporating rubrics



Lessons Learned & Future Directions

- VCCS cohort members request face-to-face time
 - If via Zoom, hold more frequent and shorter sessions
- Ongoing piloting and refinement of curricular adaptations
- Continue strengthening relationships between community college and Virginia Tech faculty
- Planning for VT Ag Tech capstone course
- Conference proposals (AAAE & NACTA)
- Project blog site (in development)
- Converting ideas into reusable learning objects



"Hey, you don't know if you don't try."

