
WELCOME BACK SYMPOSIUM 2022

TEACHING STRATEGIES FOR INCREASED STUDENT ENGAGEMENT

AUGUST 19, 2022

NEW CLASSROOM BUILDING

VIRGINIA TECH

Hosted by



Center for Excellence in
TEACHING AND LEARNING

9:30-10:45

OPENING KEYNOTE

NCB 260

Increasing student motivation: Strategies that work

Saundra McGuire

Director Emerita, Center for Academic Success

(Ret) Assistant Vice Chancellor & Professor Emerita of Chemistry

Louisiana State University

Motivating today's students to actively engage in learning activities proves challenging for most faculty. Very often Gen Z students do not respond as did students in the past to extrinsic motivators such as bonus quizzes and extra credit assignments. However, when the psychoacademic needs of students are met in creative ways, student motivation soars. This presentation will engage faculty in a discussion of addressing student needs for autonomy, competence, relatedness, self-esteem, and enjoyment in order to significantly increase student motivation.

10:55-11:25

CONCURRENT SESSION 1

NCB 260

Q&A with Sandra McGuire

NCB 210

Improving the laboratory experience: What we've retained from the pandemic

Ozzie Abaye, Plant and Envi. Sci., **Nicolin Girmes-Grieco**, HNFE, and **Meredith Steele**, Plant and Envi. Sci. (panelists)

Jill Sible, Assoc. Vice Provost of Undergraduate Education (facilitator)

NCB 230

Integrating Professionalism Skills for Student Success Behaviors in the Classroom

Tiffany Shoop, Director of Special Programs, CETL

11:35-12:05

CONCURRENT SESSION 2

NCB 210

Technology, Tools, and Strategies for Fostering Student Engagement

Daron Williams, Director - Instructional Design; **Aaron Bond**, Senior Director of Learning Services TLOS-ID

Students can feel disconnected in any learning environment. Technology that is intended to increase engagement can inadvertently become a barrier to interaction. This session will provide an overview of classroom engagement tools available at VT and provide some tips to remove barriers to student engagement when using them in your classroom.

NCB 230

What can neuroscience tell us about student engagement?

Kristin Phillips, Collegiate Associate Professor, Neuroscience

NCB 250

The 1st Day: Setting the stage for student engagement and success

Herbert Bruce, Assistant Professor of Practice, Food Science and Technology

12:10-1:05

LUNCH ON DERRING BALCONY

Due to construction, the routes to the Derring Balcony:

1:10-1:40

CONCURRENT SESSION 3

NCB 210

Calculating, Comforting, Communicating: Creating an Engaging & Engaged Learning Community

Buddy Howell, Advanced Instructor, School of Communication

This presentation will focus on a community-building strategy, including interactive and feedback techniques, to promote active engagement in the classroom. Participants will learn practical means of making a large class feel smaller and more personal, motivating participation, reducing student stress about Socratic-style interactions with faculty and peers, and soliciting feedback designed to promote comfort and active engagement.

NCB 230

Building Relationships and Trust for a Culture of Academic Integrity

Brandy Faulkner, Collegiate Assistant Professor, Political Science

This session will focus on strategies for interacting and communicating with students in ways that promote a positive, open, and effective culture around issues related to academic integrity and honesty.

NCB 250

Best Practices for Canvas: Recommendations from students

Michelle Seref, Collegiate Professor, Business Information Technology & **Engage Undergraduate Teaching Assistants**

Engage UTAs will share strategies and best practices using Canvas from their experience as teaching assistants and students. The goal would be to give faculty a UTA perspective on how to organize and manage Canvas effectively.

1:50-2:20

CONCURRENT SESSION 4

NCB 210

Helping Students Foster Friendships in Classes

Hannah L. Shinault, Advanced Instructor, School of Communication & **Students**

This presentation will recap some of the reasons students may feel disconnected in a classroom environment and have trouble socially integrating with their peers. A panel of undergraduate students will share tips and examples from their own experience about how instructors can create an environment which allows students to bond and create community.

NCB 230

Using Learning Assistants to Promote Student Engagement

Dylan Bloodworth, MAED; **Alma Robinson**, Instructor; **John Simonetti**, Professor & Associate Chair, Physics

In this interactive session, we will model using Learning Assistants (LAs) in class to promote interactive, student-centered learning. We will also discuss the benefits of LAs to students, the LAs themselves, and your department. One of our most experienced physics LAs will assist us and discuss his journey from student to student mentor.

2:30-3:00

CLOSING KEYNOTE

Using Student Development Theory to Inform Teaching Practice and Address Learning Gaps

Herbert Bruce, Assistant Professor of Practice, Food Science and Technology