Conversations From The Field: Implementing Positive Strategies For Success!

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Who We Are?

- Sara Gallagher, Ed.D.
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American InterContinental University (AIU)

- Est. 1970
- Online
  - Houston
  - Atlanta
- First gen
  - First time
  - Post-traditional
- 90%+
  - Fully online
- 5-Wk. & 10-Wk. Classes
- 6800 Seats & 300 Classes each Session
- High Touch
- First 180 day focus
You will have homework!

#OLCInnovate2022
#mytwothings
#peoplefirst
What word describes a person who has made you feel empowered?
What is a strategy you use to connect with a student or colleague?
PEOPLE WILL FORGET WHAT YOU SAID, PEOPLE WILL FORGET WHAT YOU DID, BUT PEOPLE WILL NEVER FORGET HOW YOU MADE THEM FEEL.

- Maya Angelou (1928 – 2014) was an American poet, memoirist, and civil rights activist.
WHAT IS YOUR DEFAULT?

- Rather than assuming, ask students/faculty what they need.
- Provide faculty/students with resources as they need them.

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UTILIZING A GROWTH MINDSET

- Communicating
  - Emails
  - Announcement
  - Feedback

- Feedback Examples
  - I appreciate your effort!
  - This assignment is challenging, but you can do it!
  - This wasn't submitted correctly, but you can try again!
  - You're on the right track!
  - With continued time and practice, you can get better!

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Hi Ms. Sara, sorry for the tardiness in completing my assignments I am committed to turning in all late work and catching up. Thanks for your concern and support.

18:27 AM

Wednesday, Feb 22, 2022

Sara

I hope you’re doing well! Please review the gradebook feedback for resources and an opportunity to submit the Unit 1 Individual Project without a late penalty. You CAN do it! ~Sara

7:07 AM

Good evening all :) We’re on the home stretch. Our last day is Tuesday. Please make sure you complete as many intellipath lessons throughout the entire term. You can complete lessons

18:27 AM

Thursday, Feb 24, 2022

Alexis

Sara, I have not had the greatest few weeks this February but I am trying my best to continue the course and catch up. However, I did read your comments about week 2’s individual project. It showed in my submissions tab that I sent the revised template as well as the image file you mentioned. I wanted to be certain that you would see the screenshot if it didn’t save to the template, but I did send the template with the screenshot at the bottom before the deadline, you gave me full points for. I understand that for week three I will receive a grade penalty due to the submission being late. :) Thanks for messaging as many times as you did even though I didn’t respond. - Alexis

23:55 PM

Friday, Feb 18, 2022

intellipath Opportunity

As you will often see me write intellipath, “Go for the GREEN!” But, what does this mean?

The best learning maps consist of two colors - light and dark GREEN. As you work through intellipath, you want to turn each of your lessons a shade of GREEN! Doing so means two things: First, you will learn, retain, and use more of the content from intellipath. Additionally, you would earn a higher grade within the intellipath Units. That sounds like a “win-win” to me!

I am confident in your ability to “Go for the GREEN!” Use the resources within intellipath to your advantage! Spend some time in the Resources lessons to prepare for the lessons in your learning map. The more prepared you are, the less you may have to do later.

Find yourself with a few extra minutes? Use the AIU Mobile App, head back into intellipath, and try a lesson again. Remember, you can still go back to prior Units to improve your score throughout the duration of the course.

Challenge yourself to revise ONE lesson, from a prior unit, each day! GO FOR THE GREEN!

You CAN do it!

Sara

3/11/22, 12:00 AM

Sara Gallagher
UTILIZING A GROWTH MINDSET

• Reflecting on End-of-Course Surveys and Classroom Observations or Reviews
  • Focus on trends not any one comment from students or classroom observation

• Looking Forward
  • Remind students to continue practicing, thanking them
  • Start next course
  • Encouraging faculty to focus on something in the next year in classroom observations

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In General Education, we teach many courses at the very beginning of students’ programs. We offer some of those first classes; and believe it or not, some students do not know where to view their grading feedback. Dr. Sara Gallagher, UNIV106, has implemented a simple strategy to combat this issue. When she starts to score students’ Unit 1 assignments, she sends students a screenshot that outlines where they can access her personalized feedback. This helps students “find” their grading feedback in the classroom. With Dr. Gallagher’s permission, I’m sharing this screenshot with you below and attached—

Click on icon for feedback.

Technology really has changed since I started teaching. (Actually, that feels like the understatement of the week!) Technology has evolved in ways that I could never have imagined. More and more, students are using their smartphones in conjunction with schoolwork, and I often hear faculty voice their frustrations with students working on their phones. While I can understand some of these sentiments, we can use students’ smartphones to our advantage in creative, deliberate ways.

I want to share with you the article below, “Three Tips on How to Help Your Students Study Online Effectively with a Smartphone”. This article outlines for you three strategies to help students use their smartphones in a more intentional manner. By helping students in this very targeted fashion, you can help students focus on the things they can do on their cell phones vs. the things they cannot, or should not, do on their cell phones. In turn, these strategies can be used to build your instructional utilizing instructional practices that are responsive to your students’ needs.

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DEVELOPING A TRUSTING ENVIRONMENT

• Everyday
  • Using a person’s name.
  • Using one's preferred names and/or pronouns.
  • Maintaining commitments.
  • Closing the loop on communications.

• Self-Reflections and Follow-Up Conversations

• With Coaching
  • Offering a safe place to make mistakes.
  • Offer objective, substantive, feedback and provide resources for development.
  • Use the sandwich model for feedback.
  • Ensuring that there are no surprises.
  • Doing what you know is right – even when you don’t know if it’s making a difference.
  • Using technology.

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DEMONSTRATING EMPATHY

• This is my everyday.
  • For adjunct faculty, they’re teaching what they’re passionate about.
  • For administrators, the institution can become “your world”.

• Recognize that everyone is juggling multiple responsibilities.
  • Reaching out to faculty during designated Office Hours.
  • Asking faculty about scheduling availability and allowing them to take time off as needed.

• Relate to struggles.

• Acknowledge that technology is frustrating at times.
  • Have support at your fingertips.

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BEING TIMELY IN COMMUNICATIONS

• Be available
  • Continuously offer contact information.
  • Having an open-door policy.
  • Maintaining office hours. Reaching out to faculty during office hours.

• Schedule time and use calendar reminders.

• With outreach
  • Using template verbiage that is customizable.
  • Using mail merges to personalize communications.

• Repeat information – even if you feel like you’ve said it 1,000 times.

• Offer meeting/deadline reminders and providing resources.

• Close the loop.

#OLCInnovate2022 #mytwothings #peoplefirst
Good afternoon all –

I wanted to invite you for today’s **General Education All-Faculty Meeting**. This week, two meetings will be held: one at 10:00 AM and another at 2:00 PM in CST. Both meetings will contain the same material. You only need to attend one. I’d love to see you! All information will be shared.

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Annabel, Clovis, Sara, and Erica, I wanted to thank each of you for making time to attend yesterday’s cohort meeting! I know it’s difficult to find a good time for everyone, and I appreciate you making it work.

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Good morning all –

**The Faculty Development and Support department will conduct a first set of in-services next week, March 14th – 17th.** The full program is attached. *Please be sure to register for each in-service you are interested in and planning to attend.* When you register for a session, you will receive more information.

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We are now approaching Spring, and as I often say, “Where is time going!?"

It is a good time to revisit scheduling needs. As I have mentioned in the past, we are continually working through the scheduling process, and I recognize plans change or develop from time to time. So that we are all best prepared, can you please let me know if there is an upcoming session which you will need take a break from teaching. I want to ensure, as best I can, that you have the time you need.

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Hello all and happy Friday –

Once again, I want to say “THANK YOU! THANK YOU! THANK YOU!” 100% of our the final grades for our faculty cohort were posted timely – with no hiccups or concerns. I just cannot tell you how much I appreciate your attention to this process!
We want to hear from you!

- WHAT IS YOUR DEFAULT?
- UTILIZING A GROWTH MINDSET
- DEVELOPING A TRUSTING ENVIRONMENT
- DEMONSTRATING EMPATHY
- BEING TIMELY IN COMMUNICATIONS

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Most sincerely, Sara Gallagher, Ed.D., SGallagher@aiuniv.edu, & Kelley Mansfield, M.S.Ed., KMansfield@aiuniv.edu