Educational Mondays: Engaging Online Faculty Through Professional Development

OLC Conference
November 22, 2019
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Sli.do Polls and Questions

- [www.slido.com](http://www.slido.com)
  *Q&A section*

- Use code: #EducationalMondays

- 1st Poll question...
Introduction

- Educational Mondays are faculty Professional Development opportunities that are virtually distributed and allow for faculty to discuss and collaborate asynchronously.
Session Outcome Goals

- Understand the need for creating virtual learning spaces for online faculty.
- Identify the purpose for implementing virtual professional development opportunities that incorporate engagement and collaboration between faculty.
- Utilize strategies and methods that have been proven effective to adapt (or create) the practice of learning communities and developing faculty collaboratively at their home institutions.
Grounded in Theory – the “Why”
Lev Vygotsky

Social Learning Theorist:
Zone of Proximal Development
Scaffolding
“Self Talk”
Zone of Proximal Development

- We are social beings
  - learn best through social interactions that occur
Scaffolding

• Scaffolding – cues, support, etc. to expand knowledge and learning
  – How we grow our “Zone of Proximal Development” (white circle) and independent understanding (red circle)
• We can learn from peers at and above our level
• Knowledge includes what we can answer on our own as well as what we understand and grasp with help from others
“Self-Talk”

- Social Speech converting to internalized speech

- Educational Mondays provide opportunity to have social speech with faculty peers to build learning forums and team

- If we talk about what we learned we “deepen” the learning
Andragogy

• “The art of teaching adults”
• Malcolm Knowles – Adult Learning Theory
Motivating the Adult Learner

- Assimilation
  - How relates to past learning/experiences
  - Respect prior knowledge
- Goal oriented
  - How does this meet goals?
- Future oriented
  - Prioritization of time allocation
Virtual Learning Spaces

Research Shows associations between Virtual Education “Think Tanks” and...

- Professional development
- Professional productivity
- Community
- New knowledge development
- Knowledge sharing
- Teaching
It's story time
Lead and Learn

• The ability to participate in professional development opportunities that work towards the teaching development requirement for all faculty.
• The ability for faculty to collaborate with faculty across different programs, including general education faculty, as well as different campuses.
• The ability to “meet” other faculty that you would not necessarily otherwise meet – due to proximity, program, etc.
• The ability to have a “think tank” space to discuss various topics, concerns, issues, etc. that faculty experience as educators in the classroom and in higher education.
Quality Matters

• Creating engagement begins with the Educational Monday Topic:
  – Open ended questions
  – Promotes perspectives/diversity of thought
  – Application in real life scenarios/case studies
  – Creates conversation in an online learning environment
The How
Team:

This quarter Monday’s will be deemed “Educational Monday.” In the spirit of continuing our theme from Professional Development Week, we will be reviewing the Top 10 Evidence Based Strategies adapted from works by Shaun Killian. Over the next 10 weeks I will be sending a strategy for your review and input. Please “reply all” to share thoughts and insights into the topic of the week. Based off of participation, you will receive REU’s at the end of the quarter.

Watch for your first Educational Monday email sent out later today!
I look forward to the continued discussion!
Top 10 Evidence Based Teaching Strategies. #1:

This point talks about the importance of clear lesson goals otherwise known as objectives and in our new syllabus as competencies.

- How do you ensure the students know what will be accomplished during the week?
- Do you provide supporting materials in the course announcements? Or do you copy/paste the competencies?
- How can you further enhance the student’s connection to the material?

#1: Clear lesson Goals

- If you cannot quickly and easily state what you want your students to know and be able to do at the end of a given lesson, the goal of your lesson will be unclear.
- Clear lesson goals help you (and your students) to focus every other aspect of your lesson on what matters most.
Team: Together Everyone Achieves MORE!!!!

- Happy Week 11 and the close out to yet another inspiring quarter in the eyes of our students and co-workers. I want to thank each and every one of you for your continued commitment and drive to help our students be successful. You are making a difference and together we do achieve more! I found this video, inspired by the Blue Angels. It is very powerful and reflective. The video itself poses several questions, that if interested, I would love to hear your thoughts.

The Power of Team Work: Inspired by the Blue Angels: [https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=U-iyBsaehn8](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=U-iyBsaehn8)
Rita Pierson: TED Talk Every Kid Needs a Champion
Another Video Example

Happy Week Two of Educational Mondays!

In this Ted Talk, Rita Pierson, provokes us to be thoughtful on the following:

- How do you form relationships with your students?
- How do you do this in the online/virtual learning environment?
- How do you work to build relationships with students that are hard to connect with?
- What areas of struggle do you have with relationship building in the classroom that you want to run by your peers for suggestions/thoughts?

Below in the link to “Every kid needs a champion” TED talk. Note that while she is specifically discussing the K-12 level we all can relate to the importance of relationship building in the classroom even at the high education level.

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=SFnMTHhKdkw&t=12s

Continue to “reply all” and I look forward to seeing how relationships are formed in your classrooms.
The Twelves Days of Winter Break

• On the first day of winter break the Deans gave to me, an article to remind me!
  Classroom Management:
  http://www.4faculty.org/includes/108r2.jsp

• On the second day of winter break the Deans gave to me, a Ted Talk most comfortably!
  Get Comfortable with being uncomfortable
  https://www.ted.com/talks/luvvie_ajayi_get_comfortable_with_being_uncomfortable

• On the third day of winter break the Deans gave to me, an insight into graduate students!
  Living Outside Their Heads: Assessing the Efficacy of a Multicultural Course on the Attitudes of Graduate Students in Teacher Education
Engage More

Discussion:

• What are your ideas for future Educational Monday sessions?
"Educational Mondays are a great practice for a few reasons. They provide a convenient source of professional development that simultaneously allows me to learn from my peers and to have my voice be heard. Those interactions are invaluable and since it is all done asynchronously it gives the necessary flexibility for everyone to participate if they wish. At the same time, participation is encouraged but not required, so if I have a heavy work load for that particular week I can skip it and it just adds to the convenience and flexibility of the Educational Mondays format."

"Educational Mondays provide a great opportunity for faculty to engage with each other asynchronously and see things from another faculty member’s viewpoint. New perspectives spark new ideas!"

"The part I most enjoy about Educational Monday email messages is the intelligent, honest dialogue between my colleagues. The shared anecdotes align with some of my experiences and challenge my perspectives on others. The topics the deans share apply to all our schools. Though the implementation may be different, the significance is the same."

"Unfortunately, I was not able to participate in all of them but found the comments to be interesting and innovative at times. I have taught both residential and online as an adjunct instructor and each setting provides a different focus on student learning. The topics chosen have been varied and offered many opportunities to learn from experts. There were several strategies that I found helpful and some that I tried to implement within the framework of the Blackboard course structure. It is a challenge at times to engage students in online learning especially those in the beginning of a program such as nursing. I liked the articles posted rather than videos merely because it is easier to download and refer back for later review. The Educational Mondays also serve to keep instructors engaged with the college and with other colleagues and we really can learn from each other. The viewpoints can be as diverse as our student population so it’s a good thing to hear the thoughts and opinions of other instructors.

Again, I appreciate the effort of leadership to offer these opportunities and hope that the Educational Mondays can continue."

"I have found the Ed Monday discussions to be a great way to interact with colleagues to whom I do not regularly speak in person. We discuss relevant issues in pedagogical practice, relate them to our experiences at Rasmussen College, and build community as we do so."
Administrative Findings

- Positive feedback from faculty
- Ability to meet multiple needs
- Participation variances
- Collaboration efforts between deans is valued
- Continuing to explore best communication mode
- Ability to apply new tips, tricks, ideas, etc. vs. Theoretical
Questions

Connect with us:
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Evaluate Sessions and Win!

- Download and open OLC Conferences mobile app
- Navigate to specific session to evaluate
- Select “Evaluate Session” on session details screen (located under session type and track)
- Complete session evaluation*

*Each session evaluation completed (limited to one per session) = one contest entry

**Five (5) $25 gift cards** will be awarded
Must submit evals using the OLC Conferences mobile app or website
References