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Crossing Boundaries and Moving Mountains: Facilitating Innovation Through Transdisciplinary Collaboration

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Reflect, Discuss, and Collaborate!

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About

The Session
The focus of this session is to present transdisciplinary collaboration as strategy for shifting paradigms in online learning, crossing organizational and disciplinary boundaries, and fostering an ecosystem of institutional innovation and continuous learning.

The Presenters
Rolando Méndez
Omayra Caraballo

The Institution
IAUPR is a private non profit institution founded in 1912 comprised of 9 campuses and 2 professional schools.
Introductions

Who are you?

What do you do?

What brings you to this session?
Academia Geographies and Ecologies

Spaces | People | Resources | Cultures
Our Geographies

**Spaces**

- Central Office
- Campuses
- Professional schools
- Cybernetic Centers
- K-12 Schools
- International Centers (Panama, Dominican Republic)

**People**

- Faculty
- Communities
- Staff
- Partners / Vendors
- Students
Our Geographies (Continued)

Resources

- Human Capital
- Tacit and explicit knowledge
- Facilities
- Financial
- Processes
- Projects / Alliances
- Technology
- Planning / Assessment

Cultures

- Defended
- Microcultures
- Adopted
Your Geographies

• Make an inventory of your spaces, people, resources, and cultures
Mountains as Barriers to Innovation

Mount Disconnection
Main Office/HQ - Campuses
Campus – Campus
Campus – Community
Department - Department

Mount Competition
Campus-Campus
Faculty-Staff
Traditional-Online

Mount Resistance
Change
Collaboration
Innovation
Mountains as Complexities of Innovation

Mount Accessibility
Courses, Spaces, & Services
Organizational & Pedagogical Practices

Mount Adaptability
Continuous changes
(generations, technology, social/industry needs, etc.)

Mount Quality/Integrity
Accreditation, Reputation, Accountability and Compliance
Your Mountains

• Identify the mountains (barriers and complexities) you face.
# Climbing and Moving Mountains

| Mount Disconnection | Reorganize people around processes (Distance Learning)  
|                     | Create a Transdisciplinary Academic Department (DTeD)  
|                     | Organize faculty development events that impact the system (PEAFAL)  
|                     | Reach out to SMEs in other campuses for course design and instruction  
|                     | Provide I.D. services to institution (Gen. Ed. Courses)  

| Mount Competition | Foster interdepartmental dialogues and projects  
|                  | Integrate faculty and staff from other departments in committees (Internationalization, inclusion, literacy, etc.)  
|                  | Organize training and development for faculty and staff in other departments (i.e. English courses, teaching strategies, etc.)  

| Mount Resistance | Assign academic projects to faculty members  
|                 | Reach out to faculty in other departments for course design and instruction  
|                 | Foster Intrapreneurship  

## Climbing and Moving Mountains (Continued)

| Mount Accessibility | Designate a champion for accessibility and inclusion  
|                     | Train and develop on accessibility, universal design, diversity, and inclusion  
|                     | Develop an accessibility rubric/check list for online course development  
|                     | Develop templates |
| Mount Adaptability  | Adopt scalable technologies and practices  
|                     | Evaluate (faculty, services, course design, etc.)  
|                     | Promote integration/collaboration with industry associations. |
| Mount Quality/Integrity | Compulsory certification and continuing education for online faculty  
|                        | Compulsory proctored evaluations (RPNow) and synchronous sessions  
|                        | Evaluate organizational and pedagogical practices  
|                        | Assess alignment with QM/OSCQR rubrics and MSCHE standards for accreditation |
Climb your Mountains!

• Which of these strategies are applicable or could be feasible in your institution?
Boundaries
Our Boundaries

- Personal Boundaries
  - Disciplinary Boundaries
  - Departmental/Divisional Boundaries
- Geographic Boundaries
- Cultural Boundaries
Transdisciplinarity

• Involves crossing and drawing from different boundaries, disciplines, and worldviews to acquire a comprehensive understanding of a problem.

• This approach allows developing more innovative and integrated solutions as members gain skills in other areas, think abductively, and integrate KSAs to maximize communication, interaction, and cooperation.
Cross your boundaries!

• Reflect on transdisciplinary collaboration and its feasibility in your institution.
Reflect
Discuss and Collaborate
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