Travel Report

Lilly Conference on College/University Evidenced-Based Teaching & Learning
http://lillyconferences.com/ca/
2/19/2015 - 2/22/2015
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Nature of Conference:

Lilly Conference provides a forum for issues related to teaching and student learning. This year’s theme, “Evidence-Based Teaching and Learning,” reflects the importance of scholarly teaching and the newest challenges and accomplishments on student learning.

Topics Learnt at the Conference:

My main interest in attending this conference stems from my desire to improve student learning by engaging and motivating students. Listed below are the main sessions I attended along with key lessons learnt:

- **Getting Students to Participate in Class** (Stephen Brookfield, University of St. Thomas); a number of specific techniques (verbal and visual) to involve students, along with the use of social media in real time. Behind all these techniques is the conviction that higher education classrooms need to be democratized by creating multiple opportunities for different kinds of students to be involved.

- **Deep Learning: Are we asking too much?** (Eric Sorenson and Caleb Spencer, Azusa Pacific University); methods used to stimulate deep learning from day one of a course.

- **Engaging Students In A High-Impact, Learner-Centered Environment** (Barbara Limbach and Wendy Waugh, Chadron State College); five-step pedagogical process to move a course toward one that inspires students and encourages the development of critical thinking skills with emphasis on high-impact activities.

- **Promoting Engagement in the (Sometimes Very) Large Lecture Classroom** (Lori Kayes and Devon Quick, Oregon State University); specifics of implementation, classroom management strategies, evidence of past successes, and ways to prepare students for success in the large lecture classroom.

- **Promoting Independent Learning and Thinking** (Mary Antonaros, Siena Heights University); learner-centered teaching that shift the role of the instructor from the provider of information to facilitating student learning.

- **Solutions to Common Flipped Classroom Challenges** (Amanda Brindley, University of California, Irvine); ways to increase accountability in pre-class work for flipped class instruction, to engage students of all levels in flipped large lecture courses where skill and motivation levels are extremely varied, and to balance material covered in and out of class using the pre-class accountability measures as a gauge for student learning.

- **Tech Select Faculty: Improving Instruction through Technology** (Kristi Roth and Donna Zimmerman, University of Wisconsin Stevens-Point); 5 current innovative technologies that can connect learning outcomes to community partners through technology.
• The Reverse Lecture or Flipped Classroom in a Professional Pharmacy Course (Christian Albano and Scott Hordesky, Concordia University Wisconsin); utilizing the “flipped classroom” to allow for more time on higher order thinking based on Bloom’s Taxonomy

• Tips and Strategies to Improve Student Learning Through Examinations (Sierra Dawson and Jon Runyeon, University of Oregon); strategies to use various exam question types to increase the amount of learning that occurs through the examination process, the implementation of group exams, and grading paradigms that allow students to learn from their mistakes, without failing the course.

• Transforming Your Syllabus to Increase Student Engagement: Taking it from Instructor-Centered to Learner-Centered (Keisha Paxton and Emily Magruder, California State University, Dominguez Hills); principles and application of learner-centered course design to the creation or revision of a syllabus.

• Teaching Evaluations: Driven to Drink or Reflective Practice? (Judith Ableser - Oakland University); effective strategies on using teaching evaluations to improve teaching

Recommendations for potential future participants:

The lessons learnt listed above provide me with many useful approaches that I can and will adopt to help student learning and improve my teaching. I recommend without hesitation attending this conference.