Building an Academic Commons through the Scholarship of Teaching and Learning

Mary Taylor Huber

University of North Carolina, Chapel Hill
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A new interest in teaching and learning

Carl Wieman
“a scientific approach to science education”

Diane Chapman Walsh
“learning as a collective, and intriguing intellectual inquiry”
What one word (or short phrase) captures what the "Scholarship of Teaching and Learning" (SoTL) means to you?

Respond at PollEv.com/---
or
Text --- to --- once to join, then text your message
Answers to this poll are anonymous
Getting involved means...

- **Asking questions** about your students’ learning;
- **Gathering and analyzing evidence** to help answer those questions;
- **Trying out and exploring new insights** about learning in one’s teaching
- **Making it public**, so it can contribute to the thought and practice of others
Today’s Talk

1. Guiding innovation and contributing to the “teaching commons”
2. Recognizing disciplinary communities and trading zones
3. Transforming these transitional zones into a genuine commons
Life Stories in Anthropology

- Interest in topic
- Teaching experience
- Colleagues’ suggestions
- “Poetry group” model
- Common pedagogical ideas
- New pedagogical ideas “in the air”
Chemistry 101

- Saw students struggling
- Consulted wide range of resources
- Designed new learning environment
- Compared it with old one
- Shared results

Dennis Jacobs
Teaching is on a fast train

- Diversity of students
- New technologies
- New pedagogies
- Authentic participation
- Research on learning
- New priorities and goals
- Disciplinary changes
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Disciplines as ways in

- Aspirations for students
- Intellectual histories
- Signature pedagogies
- Teaching and learning specialists
- Forums for exchange
- Advocates for reform
- Scholars of teaching and learning
Disciplinary strategies

- Close reading
- Looking for patterns
- Text and context
- Reviewing critical literature
- Applying theoretical concepts to cases
As historians who spend our professional lives studying this sort of cultural confrontation, we should have intellectual tools for facilitating communication across the divide.”
Trading zones

- Across disciplines and subdisciplines;
- Local codes or pidgins--common language;
- Coordination of action.
Openness to exchange

- Complementary strengths
- Commonality
- Concepts and theories
- Tools and methods
- Specific techniques
The teaching commons

“In this teaching commons...communities of educators committed to pedagogical inquiry and innovation come together to exchange ideas about teaching and learning and use them to meet the challenges of educating students for personal, professional, and civic life.”

Huber and Hutchings
Academic hospitality

- Celebratory
  - Community-building

- Communicative
  - Field-building

- Critical
  - Standard-setting

Phipps and Barnett
Community-building

- Full range of fields
- Different levels of work
- More campus venues
- Engaging students
- Richer associational life
Field-building

- Small significant networks
- Posters and sessions
- New genres
- Careful, critical reading
- Habits of citation
- Map collections

From Catastrophe to Celebration:
An Analysis of a Curricular Transformation

Music of Multicultural America
Elizabeth Barkley, Professor of Music
Post Hill College
The Carnegie Foundation for the Advancement of Teaching

The Project
The Data
The Summary
Transformation Themes

1. Changing To Multicultural Content
2. Empowering Students By Giving Choice
3. Multimedia Delivery Including the Web
4. Deep Learning Assessment

The music I was trained to teach was not the music my students wanted to learn. They didn't even like the way I taught! To curb this catastrophe I switched from Bach to Tupac, from lecture to multimedia and online, and from being boss to letting them choose their course activities. Then I looked for ways to assess what they learned. The transformed course is a great success and enrollment is up from 45 students per year to 700, with even more students on waiting lists.

This Carnegie Scholar course portfolio was created as a cooperative effort between Post Hill College in Los Altos Hills, California and the Knowledge Media Laboratory of the Carnegie Foundation for the Advancement of Teaching. It analyzes the 5-year process of turning that curricular catastrophe into a cause for celebration.

A note about authorship
Standard-setting

- Resources for the work
- Strong campus infrastructure
- Graduate training
- Broadening scope of “research”
- Peer review of teaching
- Connect to institutional agendas
- Recognition and reward
Action at multiple levels

- Widen circulation of pedagogical knowledge
- Deepen it through debate and critique
- Better inspire and inform instructional innovation

Conferences

Campuses

The 12th annual conference of the International Society for the Scholarship of Teaching and Learning
27-30 October 2015 in Melbourne, Australia
Thanks to ........

Geertz  Jacobs  Linkon  History Learning Project

- And to all of you....