



Math: The Bridge to Success

Polk State College's Quality Enhancement Plan

February 2014 Newsletter

How Can I Make My Class More Learner-Centered?

Incorporating instructional technology tools in the design of your course opens up a variety of ways to promote a learner-centered atmosphere in your classroom. Here are four suggestions:

- Implementing digital storytelling in the classroom gives students the ability to create and apply what they have learned using iPads and iMovie. Digital stories are multimedia movies created by students that combine photographs, video, animation, sound, music, text, and often a narrative voice. Through the creation of digital stories, the content of the course becomes more meaningful to students.
- Incorporating Turnitin, a tool designed to check for originality, encourages students to take responsibility for the originality of their own assignments. Recently purchased by the College, Turnitin also enhances learner-centered classes through features such as GradeMark and PeerMark, which help generate additional feedback for student reflection.
- Using Blackboard Collaborate, an online collaboration platform, student groups are able to present content to the entire class in a virtual modality. Students can become moderators of these sessions to enhance the learner-centered environment. Features include instant polling and feedback to check for understanding.
- Creating video lectures for students to view outside of class frees up class time for students to focus on discussion or classroom activities. A variety of software and hardware tools are available to create videos in the Teaching and Learning Innovation Centers.

Now is a great time to incorporate instructional technology tools because resources are available on both campuses. Not only is state-of-the-art equipment available in the Teaching and Learning Innovation Center (TLIC) for you to use, but an instructional technologist and lab assistant on each campus are always eager to assist you.

From the QEP Director:
Thank you for everyone's continued support of Polk State College's Quality Enhancement Plan. As part of our college-wide strategic plan, QEP principles are being applied in other classes and in other areas of the College.



Kaye Betz
QEP Director

Upcoming Professional Development

Teaching Unprepared Students: Strategies that Work	Kenneth Altford, Tyler Griffin Magna Online Seminar	Wednesday, February 19 1:30 – 2:45 p.m.	LLC 2257
Relativity for Everyone	Richard Decker	Thursday, March 6 1:30 – 2:30 p.m.	LAC 1243
Engaging and Captivating Students Online: Tips, Tricks, and Strategies	Erik Christensen, South Florida State College	Thursday, March 13 1:30 – 2:30 p.m.	LTB 1302
Digi-Me!	Nathan Neuman, Lisa Rosa, Kari Sabin	Wednesday, March 19 2:00 – 3:00 p.m.	LAC 1243
Polk State's New Global Studies Program	Brad Massey	Monday, April 7 1:30 – 2:30 p.m.	LAC 1243
Let's Talk About Student-Centered Teaching Strategies	Jason Mallory	Tuesday, April 8 2:00 – 3:00 p.m.	LAC 1243
My Students Have Changed: Reading Strategies for the Underprepared Student	Kim Thomas	TBA	WH-TBA



Meet the Professors

Winter Haven Mathematics
Professor Gregory Toole has joined the QEP this term. He is currently teaching three Intermediate Algebra classes.

Polk State College's
Professional Development Day
Lakeland Campus
April 11, 2014

Several sessions will focus on faculty sharing learner-centered teaching strategies and the use of technology to support those strategies.

Mathematics Professors Participating in the QEP this Term

Mathematics professors attend weekly Bridge Building sessions to discuss strategies and share learner-centered activities. The following professors are participating in the QEP this term:

Lakeland Professors:

Winter Haven Professors:

Anna Butler	Nerissa Felder	Richard Leedy	Larry Albright	Paul Pletcher
Megan Cavanah	Steve Frye	Mike Malone	Roger Aleman	Ken Rosever
Marsha Copeland	Bonny Hardesty	Penny Morris	Steve Drier	Gregory Toole
Richard Decker	Deborah Kindel	Carrie Toreky	Joyce Lee	Mostafa Zamani
Lorne Fairbairn				

Engaging Students through Class Discussions

Teaching Tip by Becky Pugh, QEP Winter Haven Campus Liaison

“If I want them to hear it, I talk. If I want them to learn it, they talk.” ~ Harry Wong

Hopefully your semester is off to a wonderful start. You are getting to know your students, and they are beginning to interact with each other. Because class discussions are an excellent way to deliver instruction that students will remember long after the class is over, you may be looking for ways to engage every student. Here are some points to consider:

- 1) Envision yourself as a facilitator.
- 2) Plan your discussion topics carefully to encourage critical thinking/problem solving.
- 3) Supply concrete expectations, criteria, and timelines.
- 4) Open sessions with all necessary information and directions, including grouping methods.
- 5) Keep things running smoothly by encouraging deeper thinking as you facilitate.
- 6) Encourage risk taking.
- 7) Interject when needed to refocus or redirect groups
- 8) Reserve time for all groups to share and reflect.



Thompson, J. (2007). *The first-year teacher's survival guide*. (Second ed.). San Francisco: John Wiley & Sons, Inc.

Teaching tips such as this are sent every two weeks to adjuncts teaching developmental classes. If you would like to be added to the distribution list, contact Rebecca (Becky) Pugh rpugh@polk.edu or Lynda Wolverton (lwolverton@polk.edu). We hope these tips for learner-centered teaching will add to the repertoire of strategies you already use to engage students in instruction.

PAL Training for Turnitin and Collaborate

2/14/14	Lakeland TLIC 10:00 a.m. – noon	Winter Haven TLIC 3:00 p.m. – 5:00 p.m.
2/21/14	Lakeland TLIC 10:00 a.m. – noon	Winter Haven TLIC 3:00 p.m. – 5:00 p.m.
2/28/14	Lakeland TLIC 10:00 a.m. – noon	Winter Haven TLIC 3:00 p.m. – 5:00 p.m.