SoTL Commons Conference

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Reclaiming Our Teaching and Learning Roots

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Reclaiming our Teaching and Learning Roots

Deborah Romero, Rob Reinsvold, & Dianna Gray
Think-Pair-Share

How would you describe the attitude towards SoTL within the culture of your institution or your department/unit/other?
Rate your institution

Where on the continuum would you rate your institution?

Where on the continuum would you rate your unit?
University of Northern Colorado

Founded in 1889

State Normal School (1889-1910)
Colorado State Teachers College (1911-1934)
Colorado State College of Education (1935-56)
Colorado State College (1957-1969)
University of Northern Colorado (1970-present)

First Graduate Degrees in 1913

Designated a doctoral-granting/research university by Carnegie Foundation for Advancement of Teaching
TOTAL STUDENTS: 11,645

UNC STUDENT PROFILE

UNDERGRADUATE: 9,353
GRADUATE: 2,292

Latest information from UNC Census Report.

$125.8 MILLION Total financial aid awarded
82% Incoming freshmen offered financial aid
More than 1,850 students are EMPLOYED on campus

50 STATES + 32 COUNTRIES Outside the U.S.

62% FEMALE
38% MALE

21% MINORITY
34% FIRST GENERATION STUDENTS

FACULTY-TO-STUDENT RATIO 19:1

TOP 5 STATES Home to UNC Undergraduates: CO | CA | TX | HI | AZ

ACT AVERAGE SCORE of Enrolled Freshmen 23

GPA AVERAGE of Enrolled Freshmen 3.2

Source: UNC Student Viewbook
http://www.unco.edu/admissions/pdf/mini_viewbook.pdf
Our Roots

Teaching Teachers
Our Goal

Engaging More Faculty in Scholarship of Teaching and Learning
Started in 2006 to support Blackboard (Ed Tech Support)

Renewed Efforts to Promote SoTL

Built on Boyer’s (1990, 1996) Model of Scholarship

• Emphasizing connection of teaching, research, and practice

Explicit Initiative from Provost

Connecting student learning outcomes to unit assessments
Faculty Forums
  Faculty teaching Faculty Approach
  Faculty supporting Faculty

Faculty Fellows of Teaching and Learning

Collaboration across disciplines

Teaching and Learning Fair

Biology High Tea Discussion Group
Faculty Forums

✓ Exploring theoretical, practical, and scholarly issues around SoTL
✓ Promoting understanding about how to conduct SoTL research
✓ Monthly discussions on topics such as ethical issues, IRB process, meeting the rigor for publication, sharing results
✓ Peer observations of teaching to promote increase awareness of effective teaching
Let’s hear your experiences...
Think-Pair-Share

• What do you think are some obstacles/challenges that prevent your faculty and institution from embracing SoTL more?
Challenging Issues

Top Down

Bottom up
Challenging Issues

• **Obstacles to Greater Faculty Acceptance**
  - Faculty demands on time
  - Unfamiliarity with educational research designs
  - Promotion and tenure concerns
  - Complacency in teaching practices
  - Variance in theoretical frameworks on teaching and learning
  - Sustainable practices