From the Desk of the Chancellor

Learning Best Practices

Apr. 16, 2013
by Charles R. Bantz

Teachers are learning every day in their classrooms. We see a blank stare, a furrowed brow, and ask ourselves, what isn’t working? We click back through other methods and ask, was that more effective than what I just did? We try different methods to test strategies. We ask if colleagues in our discipline may have come up with a technique that worked for them that I might try.

While undergraduate teaching still involves lectures, laboratories and seminars, faculty are expanding their experimentation in teaching. They are trying collaborative learning techniques, practice-based service learning and community-based research. They are testing the best ways to use new media.

The 2013 William M. Plater Institute on the Future of Learning is a place where regular faculty members -- not necessarily those specialists engaged in the scholarship of teaching and learning -- share with others what they’re learning and using in their classroom.

Mary Taylor Huber wants faculty to “go public” with those classroom experiments and experiences. She directs the Carnegie Foundation for the Advancement of Teaching Integrative Learning Project and US Professors of the Year Program. She is passionate about expanding opportunities for faculty to develop networks in their disciplines, as well as across campus, for learning how to be good teachers. Her recent books include “The Advancement of Learning: Building the Teaching Commons” (2005) and “The Scholarship of Teaching and Learning Reconsidered: Institutional Integration and Impact” (2011).

Mary Taylor Huber is the featured keynote speaker for the Plater Institute this year. In addition, Assistant Professor of Communication Studies Jonathan Rossing at IUPUI will speak on “Creating an Immersive Environment.” This year’s institute is an excellent opportunity for faculty who wish to expand their roles as educators. You will learn how fellow faculty members go from being intrinsically interested in conveying their discipline better as teachers to developing communities in which they can engage in discussing the issues and have meaningful conversations about how faculty fit this work into already busy schedules.

The 2013 William M. Plater Institute on the Future of Learning is 8:30 a.m. to 1:30 p.m., April 22, in the Campus Center, Room 450. Titled “Integrative Learning: Translating Theory into Practice,” the day’s activity also features table top discussions on various topics and a best practices panel. Click here for a full event schedule.

Comments? Write chancllr@iupui.edu.

Read more From the Desk of the Chancellor stories »