

# Differing Structures: Examples of Faculty Learning Communities in a University Setting

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### Teaching And Learning With Technology Goals PennState

- Drive innovation
- Facilitate faculty development
- Promote research
- Inspire excellence



# Teaching And Learning With Technology Pilot



- Application process
- Financial incentive

Encouraged to meet every 3 weeks

Final report



#### Faculty Learning Communities



- Faculty led
- Shared goal
- Academic year
- Small communities of peers
- Focus on teaching and learning with technology
- May lead to other forms of scholarship



## Faculty Learning Communities 2018-2019 Pilot



- 7 communities
- 4 campuses
- 4-12 members



- One community had co-leaders
- One community met virtually

### Faculty Learning Communities 2018-2019 Pilot



#### **Topic**

Teaching of Data Visualizations

Innovative Instructional Technologies in the Classroom

Digital Fluency and Content Development

Mentoring Undergraduate Student Researchers

Global Learning in Agriculture

Scholarship of Teaching and Learning in Chemistry

OER: Local and Global Appeal

#### 2018-2019 Pilot Outcomes



- Identified professional development needs
- Started collaborative research projects
- Created assessment tools
- Designed new institutional processes
- Revisited outward-facing websites



#### 2018-2019 Pilot Outcomes



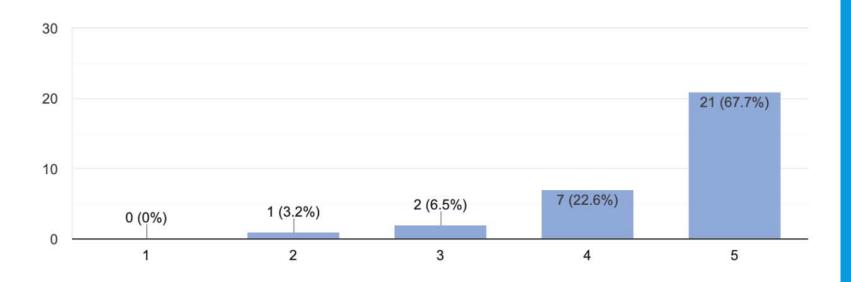
- What was the most positive aspect of your experience in the TLT FLC Community?
- What about the TLT FLC was the most challenging?
- What could have been changed about the TLT FLC to improve your experience as a member of this community?
- Based on your experiences in this FLC, would you recommend participation in a TLT FLC to interested peers? Why or Why not?
- How would you describe the nature of the impact that participation in the FLF FLC has had for you professionally and personally?
- What suggestions do you have for how TLT could have better supported your FLC?
- How likely are you to engage in other TLT initiatives in the future?

#### 2018-2019 Pilot Outcomes



How likely are you to engage in other Teaching and Learning with Technology initiatives in the future?

31 responses



# New Faculty Learning Communities 2019-2020

Global Learning in Agriculture

Intentionalizing Undergraduate Research at Penn State

Innovative Instructional Technologies in the Classroom

Effective Digital Tools for Teachers and Young Children

Gaming in Business and Finance

Scholarship of Teaching and Learning in Organic Chemistry

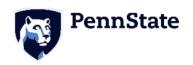
Teaching Students Metacognitive Strategies for Success

Best Practices in Student Generated OER

Creativity in the Practice of Teaching

Using technology to enhance student learning and engagement for international (ESL) students

# Global Learning In Agriculture Faculty Learning Community



- Provide a space to talk about teaching and learning
- Explore new methods and technologies
- Celebrate successes and troubleshoot issues
- Focused on how to teach global topics



### Global Learning In Agriculture FLC Mechanics

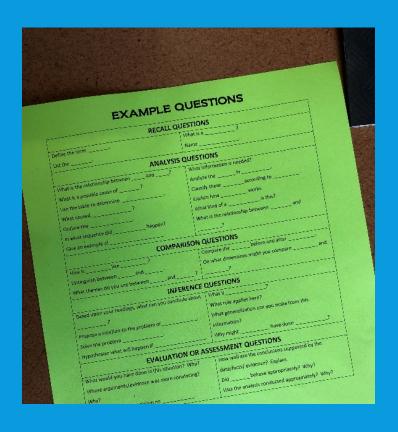


- Broadly advertised, then snowball recruitment
- Meet once per month on a regular schedule
- Lunch provided
- Utilized internal resources
- Space for discussion



# Global Learning In Agriculture FLC Topics





- Immersive experiences
- Social media for educational purposes
- Managing group/team work
- Classroom discussions
- Exploring university resources for teaching

#### **Lessons Learned**



- What is needed is space for discussion and sharing of experiences
- Meeting over lunch helps to create community
- RSVP for food creates an accountability structure



#### **Future Plans**



- Summer work sessions
- Continue to meet next year
- Time is needed for community to continue to develop

