

NECC 2020 Strategic Plan Update: May 2018

GOAL PROFESSIONAL GROWTH



Context

The vision of this goal team is to increase opportunities for faculty and staff that encourage professional growth, foster experimentation, and advance curriculum innovation.

Accomplishments

- Curricular Innovation: Competency-Based Education
 - The CBE Implementation Team submitted a **Substantive Change Request to NEASC** in March to offer 6 Early Childhood Education CBE courses and an English Composition II CBE course as part of a new Early Childhood Director Certificate.
 - In February 2018, Academic Innovations and Professional Development and the Early Childhood Education departments began the implementation of the FY18 **Competency-Based Pathways in Early Education Performance Incentive Fund** grant which supports a seven community college consortium that will collaborate on building the capacity of Early Childhood Education program to deliver competency-based education that aligns with professional early education competencies and standards.
 - On April 5, 2018, the CBE Implementation Team hosted a visit from the **Postsecondary National Policy Institute** which provides professional development to Congressional staff who work on higher education policy issues. The CBE Implementation Team provided a seminar on course-based competency-based education.
- Supporting Adjunct Faculty
 - Faculty Fellows Lizzie Linn Casanave and Trish Schade facilitated the new **Teaching and Learning Academy**. Funded by a NECC Fund Award, this academy provided a cohort of mostly adjunct faculty the support to explore and share ideas about teaching and learning. Participant evaluations were overwhelmingly positive.
 - Faculty fellows offered **weekly coffee hours** for adjunct faculty to promote creating connections and providing consultation services. Adjuncts have also participated in events such as Fika Friday, Professional Day and Collegial Conversations.
 - Adjunct Faculty Fellows Lizzie Casanave, Sheila Muller and Kathleen Bartolini presented **Crossing the Bridge: Strengthening the Part-Time Faculty Connection** at the Teaching, Learning and Student Development Conference at Berkshire Community College on April 6, 2018.
- Change Leadership
 - The Center for Professional Development hosted an **Integrated Student Experience 101** discussion on March 13.
- Promoting Culturally Conscious Pedagogy and Student Services
 - NECC joined the Bridgewater State University **Leading for Change Diversity Consortium** and created a campus team. Members of the team attended the Consortium's Spring Summit at MIT on March 29, 2018.
 - NECC hosted an **International Women's Day Celebration** on March 9 that featured speaker Minou Tavarez Mirabal, a Dominican politician and academic.

- The Center for Instructional Technology launched a **Blackboard Ally** pilot in fall 2017. Blackboard Ally is a tool for faculty to ensure digital course content is accessible to students with disabilities and ensures the College is compliant with ADA regulations. The successful pilot led to broader dissemination of the tool this semester. Lance Hidy and Minh Le conducted a concurrent session on Blackboard Ally at Professional Day on March 30.
- Barbara Stachniewicz, Mary Yeager, Trish Schade and Steve Russell presented a session on **Creating Global Scholars** at the 29th Annual Teaching Academic Survival and Success Conference in April in Fort Lauderdale, Florida.
- The Center for Professional Development hosted a **Collegial Conversation** on January 31 on the topic of creating a sense of belonging among students.
- The Center for Professional Development hosted a **Why I Love Vietnam** talk exploring the Vietnamese culture on February 7.
- The **One Geographic Region** program offered a lecture and discussion of Liberation Theology with Professor Meredith Gunning on February 9.
- The Learning Accommodations Center and Deaf and Hard of Hearing Services sponsored an **All Abilities Week** from April 9 – 13, 2018. The week's activities included an Allies for Inclusion interactive exhibit on loan from St. Louis University, a lecture by national speaker Lydia Brown and a panel of current and past NECC students with disabilities. In addition, Disability Awareness posters have been permanently mounted in all buildings on both campuses.

Actions

- The Leading for Change Campus Team will begin to explore the Diversity Consortium Benchmarks and will choose summer reading on campus equity and diversity issues.
- A May 15, 2018 **Teaching and Learning Symposium** will provide faculty and staff with exposure to LGBTQ+ history and academic content.