

Face-to-Face Dialogue: What Does It Mean to be an Educated Person?

Brown Bag Discussions – Fall 2008

This series of informal forums for fall 2008 is part of the Campus Dialogue that began in 2003 on what it means to be an educated person and what more we can be doing to help our students on their journey of lifelong learning. Please come to as many as you can to share your ideas with others and to learn more about ways we can all help to further enrich the educational experience of SJSU students. Bring a friend. All sessions are from noon – 1 pm in IRC 101.

NEW For 08/09: Attend 6 of the 10 sessions for fall/spring, read and share something from an AAC&U liberal learning report with the Educated Person Dialogue email discussion group, and provide an idea for a future Educated Person brown bag discussion to receive an *Educated Person Dialogue Certificate*.

Wed Sep 17	<p>LEAP! – In Spring 2005, the Senate endorsed having the campus join the AAC&U LEAP campaign to promote liberal learning. LEAP has a wonderful articulation of the goals for liberal learning and this past summer, the CSU endorsed incorporating them into CSU GE. This discussion will delve into the LEAP objectives and how they weave nicely into our GE program learning objectives. We'll also discuss how they can be used to help your students in any class (GE or not) gain a better sense of liberal/lifelong learning.</p> <p>CSU Press Release: http://www.calstate.edu:80/PA/news/2008/leap.shtml LEAP overview: http://www.aacu.org/advocacy/pdfs/LEAP_VisionFlyer.pdf</p>
Tues Oct 7	<p>California's Public Schools: Where our students come from and what it means for us – we often see news articles about poor performance of many of our public schools on standardized tests. Recent data on drop out rates indicate that about 1 in 4 students don't complete high school. What is going on in our public schools and what does it mean for expectations and needs of our entering frosh?</p> <p>Facilitator: Judith Lessow-Hurley, College of Education</p>
Mon Oct 20	<p>Student-University Disconnects – The 2007-2008 Teacher-Scholar's research included an observation on how messages we send to our students and others are sometimes contradictory. For example, we tell students it is important to do something they have a passion for and do their best. However, the alums we tend to highlight are ones who have achieved high levels in the business field and/or become very wealthy. We tend not to reward or recognize much of what we tell students is important, such as successful completion of GE and active participation in co-curricular activities. This session will look at whether we have a disconnect between liberal learning and what messages we seem to be promoting (both overtly and unintentionally). Please come to share any examples of message disconnects, ways to avoid them, the relevance to student learning, and hear what others have to say.</p>
Tues Nov 4	<p>21st Century Learning – Learning approaches and our students have changed even since the 1990s. Today's students live as multi-taskers, yet we are likely to tell them to find a quiet place to study. A lot of classroom time is still devoted to lecture despite research indicating it is not likely to produce lasting learning. Technology exists that can help students learn in the computer game type environment that many thrive in, yet it is unlikely to be used. Social networking is standard for our students, yet used little in our courses. Students likely spend more time skimming websites than reading books and have become accustomed to most things being "instant."</p> <p>This discussion will look at some research and other information about technology habits and experiences of our students and how we may need to modify 20th century practices to better help our 21st century students learn.</p> <p>Here is one article to read in advance: Is Google Making Us Stupid? By Nicholas Carr, <i>The Atlantic.com</i> (http://www.theatlantic.com/doc/200807/google).</p> <p>Here is an example of an interactive learning website: http://38.151.33.7/MUBeta/MoneyUDemo.html Facilitators: Eloise Stiglitz, AVP Student Affairs; Annette Nellen, Campus Reading Program</p>
Wed Dec 3	<p>Academic Challenge - We started talking about this tough topic in spring 2008 and there is much more to talk about. NSSE and other research indicates that the higher the level of academic challenge presented to students, the more engaged they are and the greater their achievement. What is the level of academic challenge we impose on students? Is it enough? How do we communicate to new students what is expected of them? Do we follow up on our expectations or do we tend to lower our expectations? Please join in this important topic for our campus.</p>

<http://www.sjsu.edu/cfd/programs/educatedperson>

If you want to join the email discussion group – please contact Annette Nellen at anellen@sjsu.edu.