



Being a Lumen Circles Fellow

Tips for Engaging in the Experience from Former Fellows

Managing Fellowship Activities

My process for working on the Lumen Circle Fellowship was first to read the assignment early in the week and contemplate for a couple of days. I set aside one night to complete the assigned task. I found it helpful to read and respond to all of the posts over the next few days.

Roberta Schlehr

Visual Communications Technology, SUNY Erie

We're all bombarded with a ton of duties as faculty members. I carved out my Learning Circle time every Wednesday morning when the new week started. Having the time carved out to write my initial posts made my life a lot easier...When I set aside the time, my participation wasn't something that felt like it was tacked on to everything else. Instead, it felt like something I allowed myself to do amid the rest of the chaos. And trust me, last spring was all about chaos...I was very grateful that I had my little piece of solemnity to write about and reflect on everything happening in my classes.

Jason S. Wrench

Department of Communication, SUNY New Paltz

My advice to participants in Lumen Circles is to carve out time each week to participate. Rather than thinking of participation as just another task, take time to mindfully engage with your circle. Participating in the circle gave me the opportunity to approach challenges with a support system and tackle them in new ways.

Jenna Grzeslo

Media Studies, SUNY New Paltz (Formerly)

Being in a Community of Practice

If you think you know all that there is to know about remote or online pedagogy because you have been teaching online for a few months or years... Think again. Nothing is more effective than learning from the experiences of others in different fields.

Jung-Whan de Jong

Sociology Department, Fashion Institute of Technology

Try not to get too set in your (pedagogical) ways...be willing to learn from others.

Steve Hymowech

Humanities, Fulton-Montgomery Community College

There is such a level of support and encouragement to be found in this group of colleagues. It is a safe place to expose your classroom wins and losses, and more importantly, it's a sounding board for your biggest puzzles.

Kaite Anderson

Environmental Science Department, Harford Community College

I especially enjoyed using Appreciative Inquiry for providing feedback to my peers. I think we ought to do more of that in our teaching profession!

Karen Arnold

Professor, Marine Transportation Department, Massachusetts Maritime Academy

My advice for faculty participating in a program like this that explores teaching practices and finding ways to enhance their teaching: be receptive to new pedagogical ideas and support that will benefit your students.

Tony Podlaski

English Department, Hudson Valley Community College

When someone asks a question, dig and explore to provide them answers. Trust me, you will find a lot of answers to questions that you haven't even asked yet.

Scott Walton

Business Department, Harford Community College



Engaging with your Facilitator

This experience will allow you to discover a lot about yourself as a person as well as an instructor. Your fellows provide diverse insightful feedback that will allow you to grow in your profession.

Rhonda Coffelt

Chemistry Department, John C Calhoun State Community College

The best part, for me, was the modeling of excellence by the facilitator: I learned from reading her carefully sculpted and incisive feedback (1) how to better draw out from students demonstrations of what they are learning, and (2) how to get them to think about and articulate how/why they are doing so.

Fellow, SUNY Oneonta

Gaining New Ideas

My advice to other faculty is to remember that there is always room to fit more tools in the toolbox. Whether you are in your first or twentieth year teaching, there is always something to learn, even from the junior faculty!

Kristin Osbourne

Marine Science/Environmental Science Department, Massachusetts Maritime Academy

Be open to new ideas. Be open to change. Be focused on student learning and you will grow as a teacher.

Sara Cano

Health Sciences Department, College of Southern Maryland

I would encourage all those who participate to take the time to review the research information provided here, as well as to complete all the reflections and appreciate inquiries to your peers. You will get out of it what you put in, I promise!

Jennifer Hawley

Social & Behavioral Sciences Department, Chesapeake College

