

Foster Belonging in All Learning Environments



The Fostering Belonging for Student Success Circle is about creating environments where all students feel they belong and can thrive personally and academically. We do this by building skills around evidence-based teaching practices that help us teach inclusively and effectively.

By engaging in a community of practice, you will share ideas with others in your Circle and bring your learning into the classroom to ensure students feel they belong in your class.

Benefits of a Belonging Classroom

- When students feel they belong, they persist and complete the course
- Honoring who students are and what they bring to the learning community helps students feel they contribute to the class and are valuable members
- Students who are more connected to their faculty seek out help more often, communicate more readily, and disclose challenges they may face that impacts their successful course completion.
- Creating a sense of belonging for all students helps build a class community that is respectful despite differences of opinion, experience, or points of view.

Expected Outcomes of a Belonging Fellowship

- Learn why Belonging is important for student success
- Identify goal(s) for creating a learning environment that fosters a sense of belonging
- Evaluate the ways your teaching philosophy, course materials, and design impact creating a belonging learning environment
- Identify ways to build belonging in informal learning spaces
- Synthesize lessons learned from time in the Circle

Take your skills to the next level with Lumen Circles

<https://lumenlearning.com/what/lumen-circles-program-descriptions/>



Brief Overview of the Fellowship Curriculum:

Orientation

Complete your profile, familiarize yourself with the platform, your Circle mates, and the Circle focus. Meet with your facilitator. Problem-solve technical issues. Get ready to start your fellowship!

Week 1: Explore and Connect

Explore the platform, complete your profile, learn about the Lumen Reflective Practice model including using Appreciative Inquiry (a strength-based approach), CoP, Evidence-based teaching practices (EBTP), our EBTP framework, and meet each other. Write your first reflection and comment on your 2 assigned reflections and with the 2 fellows reviewing your reflection.

Week 2: Reflect and Plan on #Engaging the Whole Learner

Reflect on how our personal experiences and backgrounds shape the way we teach and connect with students. Learn why belonging matters for student success. Create a teaching plan to use #Engaging the Whole Learner in your teaching, and identify the EBTP tags used. Comment on your 2 assigned teaching reflections and your fellow reviewers.

Week 3: Share your Teaching using #Engaging the Whole Learner

Explore how your plan to embed the EBTP Belonging tag #Engaging the Whole Learner worked with your students or how you expect it to work if you could not implement the plan. Comment on your 2 assigned reflections and with the fellows who reviewed your reflection. Ask your reviewers specific questions, for help, or their suggestions based on their teaching experiences.

Week 4: Open Discussion and Goal Setting

Join in the Circle-wide discussions about what you have learned so far, questions you have, topics you want to dive deeper into, and what you want to accomplish by the end of the Circle. Experience #Pedagogical Partnerships - you decide the discussion topics this week!

Week 5: Explore #Reflecting Student Experiences and #Pedagogical Partnerships

Students' identities, backgrounds, and lived experiences shape the ways they engage in our courses and connect with the learning environment. How do we incorporate this into our classes? We'll also examine how authentic connections in formal and informal learning spaces influence belonging inside and outside the classroom. You'll create a teaching plan to use #Reflecting Student Experiences and/or #Pedagogical Partnerships. Comment on your 2 assigned teaching reflections and your fellow reviewers.

Week 6: Reflect on using #Reflecting Student Experiences and #Pedagogical Partnerships

Explore how your plan to embed these EBTP Belonging tags worked with your students or how you expect it to work if you could not implement the plan. Comment on your 2 assigned reflections and with the fellows who reviewed your reflection. Ask your reviewers specific questions, for help, or their suggestions based on their teaching experiences.

Week 7: Identifying and Challenging Assumptions

Learn about implicit and explicit bias, microaggressions, and assumptions about student engagement. Complete the #Challenging Assumptions Worksheet. Write a plan to add #Challenging Assumptions to a learning activity you will teach over the next week. Respond to your reviewers, and review your 2 assigned reflections.

Week 8: Share your Teaching using #Challenging Assumptions

Explore how your plan to embed the EBTP Belonging tag #Challenging Assumptions worked with your students or how you expect it to work if you could not implement the plan. Comment on your 2 assigned reflections and with the fellows who reviewed your reflection. Ask your reviewers specific questions, for help, or their suggestions based on their teaching experiences.

Week 9: Meta-Reflection

Reflect on your fellowship experience. What did you learn? What changes have you made in your teaching? What do you want to learn and do next? Write a reflection noting changes and growth in your teaching, new ideas and concepts you learned, and where you want to go next. Respond to your reviewers, and review your 2 assigned reflections.

