

Empowering Student Learning with Personal Learning Networks for Appreciative College Experience

Kam Hou Vat, PhD
University of Macau, Macau SAR
China

July 09, 2014

John Dewey

- ◆ True learning is a process of discovery guided by mentoring rather than the transmission of knowledge!
- ◆ If we teach our students with the method of yesterday, we are robbing the future out of our next generation!

A Caring College Education!

What services?

For Whom?

In what ways?

Under what circumstances?

Appreciative College Experience

What Services?

- Proactive Life coaching
- Appreciative sharing without being questioned
- Appreciative inquiry emphasizing the positive
- Appreciative coaching: Discover, Dream, Design, Destiny

Empowering Student Learning

For whom?

- Students & Faculty Members
- College learning communities
- Caring for the whole person
- Caring for the community
- Caring for the groups
- Caring for the individual
- Holistic pastoral care
- Living, Loving, and Learning

Personal Learning Networks

In what ways?

- Through a caring college and global community
- Learn to love Learn to care
- Learn to serve Learn to lead
- Learn to learn with **PASSION**
- Emphasizing the nobility of service to others
- Using an informal learning network comprising the people a learner interacts with and derives knowledge from, via some computing devices with Internet connections

A Caring College Experience with PLNs

Under what circumstances?

- Holistic Student Development
- Discover “What is”
- Dream “What might be”
- Design “What could be”
- Destiny “What will be”
- Whole-Person Care/Education
- Interest/Passion Generation

PLN as a Caring Technology-Enhanced Approach to Help Students

via Appreciative Inquiry + Appreciative Coaching, to

- ◆ **Discover with a grounded observation their best “what is”**
- ◆ **Dream with appreciation their “what might be”**
- ◆ **Design with aspirations their “what could be”**
- ◆ **Declare with passion and action their destiny “what will be”**

Life Coaching in action, with a caring perspective

An Appreciative College Community

College Learning Communities must be nurtured to become (Boyer's vision):

- *Purposeful*– Learning to learn with discovery guided by mentoring, rather than transmission of knowledge
- *Open* – Learning to respect the dignity of every person, allowing freedom of expression and affirming the virtue of civility
- *Disciplined*– Learning to accept obligations to the community, behaving to protect the values of courtesy and privacy, and affirming the code of conduct for common good
- *Celebrative*– Learning to uphold the best campus heritage and traditions central to the Holistic Student Development (HSD) culture of college education
- *Caring*– Learning to cultivate a sense of connection with larger community, serving others genuinely in need through field learning experiences.

PLN Vision in College Education

- ◆ *Develop proficiency with the tools of technology*
- ◆ *Build relationships with others to pose and solve problems collaboratively and cross-culturally*
- ◆ *Design and share information for global communities to meet a variety of purposes*
- ◆ *Manage, analyze, and synthesize multiple streams of simultaneous information*
- ◆ *Create, critique, analyze, evaluate multimedia information*
- ◆ *Attend to the ethical responsibilities required by these complex environments*

PLN Steps in College Education

- ◆ *Understand the power of PLNs*
- ◆ *Become a networked learner*
- ◆ *Implement a networked classroom*
- ◆ *Become a networked school*

PLN Challenge in College Education

With an Internet connection, we can start to create a PLN - a set of connections to people and resources both offline and online to enrich our learning.

With a PLN, we can learn anytime, anywhere, with potentially anyone around the world who shares our passion or interest.

PLN – Examples

Mark Klassen

- ◆ <http://www.markaklassen.com>
- ◆ <http://www.vimeo.com/markklassen>

Pam Moran

- ◆ A Space for Learning
- ◆ <http://spacesforlearning.wordpress.com/2014/05/06/a-letter-to-all-those-who-choose-to-teach/>

References

- Bogue, E.G. (2002). An agenda of common caring: The call for community in higher education. In W.M. McDonald & Associates (Eds.), *Creating campus community in search of Ernest Boyer's legacy* (pp.1-20). San Francisco, CA: Jossey-Bass.
- Boyer, E.L., Sr. (1990). *Campus life: In search of community – A special report for the Carnegie Foundation for the Advancement of Teaching*. Lawrenceville, NJ: Princeton University Press.
- Cooperrider, D.L., & Whitney, D. (2005). *Appreciative inquiry: A positive revolution in change*. San Francisco: Berrett-Koehler.
- Orem, S.L., Binkert, J., & Clancy A.L. (2007). *Appreciative coaching: A positive process for change*. San Francisco, CA: Jossey-Bass.
- Richardson, W. & Mancabelli, R. (2011). *Personal learning networks: Using the power of connections to transform education*. Bloomington, IN: Solution Tree Press.

Thank You!

Q & A