Intellectual Road Trip

Purpose

Someday, this semester will end, and we'll look around, dazed, and start thinking about what it all means. The work of reflection is made richer when it is done with others—so that our own perspectives are contextualized and the possibilities for future action open up.

The Center for the Advancement of Teaching and Learning and the Center for Civic Engagement had initially planned an event to build on the work done on our campus regarding high-impact practices. But we revisited those goals to be responsive to the world-historic events of this semester. The event is now a week-long intellectual journey that focuses on trying to understand what COVID-19 has meant and will mean for our community at UWGB. We also seek ways to move forward collectively and create the institution we need, while also questioning who is included in the “we.” CCE and CATL invite instructors to explore these questions with us so that we can get a sense of where we've just been and how we might orient our campus community towards a just future.

Task

This is an invitation to apply to join us in the first week of June on a professional development journey—despite any travel restrictions which might be in place. During the week of June 1-5, we will read relevant materials, conduct a series of remote discussions and hold small-group working sessions to visit the following points of interest.

Points of Interest

We would like for this event to be responsive to the interests of participants. The goals we listed below are not exhaustive. Rather, they suggest the type of journey we have in mind. Please consider these goals as an itinerary we create together.

- People will emerge with ideas for how to incorporate discussions of the pandemic into courses through disciplinary lenses/contexts
- People will connect across disciplinary, staff/faculty and other divides to consider how to best support and build sustainable and meaningful community
- People will have time, space, and support to reflect on Spring 2020—the surprising joys, the hard stuff, the challenges, the feelings.
- People will incorporate a framework—such as Universal Design, Community of Inquiry, or Open Pedagogy—into their courses/curriculum, which will enhance instruction in all modalities and make pivoting between modalities easier.
- People will mitigate assessment challenges that arose out of the abrupt transition to distance delivery.
- Other goals which emerge from the interests of participants
Participants will have a choice of how to engage during the week, just as our students have had this semester—from synchronous discussions to asynchronous individual and group work. The exact details will evolve as we better understand our situation come early June—but some access to a computer and the internet is needed to take part, and the willingness to make space between June 1-5 to work together on issues of shared concern related to teaching, learning, community, and equity. We intend for our journey to take roughly six hours, spread throughout the week.

Criteria

Eligibility
All instructors and staff

Rules of the road
Each person will be expected to spend roughly six hours total, including contributing to a small-group plan for the week. Each person will be compensated with a $100 stipend. Each of us will also emerge into the next stage of this pandemic having reflected a bit on its meaning and concretely planned for the future, and our group will hopefully generate ideas about broader ways we may develop a resilient and just community at UWGB.

To join, all you need to do is indicate your interest here: You will hear about your acceptance on May 11 and you'll have until May 15 to agree. Before June 1, the only requirement is to engage in some self-reflection, in writing or other form that works for you, on your Spring Semester experience and what feelings, ideas, or priorities this reflection brings to the surface.

Perhaps it feels like a lot right now, but we hope you consider committing some of your time in June to reflection and community-building!

How to get on board
Fill out the questionnaire. That will help us plan an event that is responsive to the needs and interests of as broad a range of the community as possible. The questionnaire will remain open until MAY 8th.