

November 13th, 2014

Professional Development (Follow-up) Report for Henry D. Young, in attending the 10th Annual *National Economics Teaching Association Conference on November 6th and 7th, 2014.*

Conference Review: The (5) workshops I attended while at the conference were all very enlightening and educational. Cengage learning in conjunction with (NETA) presented topics that were cross-sectional in terms of economic pedagogies and new technologies emerging for both in-class and online courses.

Workshops I attended

- Meet Me Halfway: Using Challenging Group Discussions to break down Barriers between Instructor and Students.
- Making Economic Interactive
- Principles of Econ the Online Project
- Team Based Learning
- Bureau of Economic Analysis Presentation

What I learned?

Uniquely each workshop covered several dimensions of teaching economics and presented ideas for change in the class room to increase student success. By incorporating **Nontraditional methods like Group Discussion, Interactive learning, and Group Projects, Professors** can increase both retention rates as well as success rates in the course. **Group discussions** foster confidence in the subjects. **Interactivity** allows students to experience the subject real time, while building problem solving intuition. **Group** based learning is also a crucial element for increasing economics course student success rates. Groups foster growth in academic motivation, awareness of subject and confidence in expression.

Cengage Learning, the leading publisher of Economics text book also introduced new online technologies like (Mind-Tap) which gives students the ability to Read, Research and Practice economic concepts using (semi) artificial intelligence learning management system. This technology sequences learning form easy to more difficult as students complete assignment, while at the same time assessing student strengths and weakness during the process of learning.

What I can take back to the Class Room?

As a Professor I will look to incorporate more Nontraditional assignments in hopes to motivate students to think differently about Economics. To this end, I feel this will enable me to establish better student learning outcomes for my course, using the assignment as a rehearsal for test and examinations assessment in lectures and online.

How Will I improve Online Economics Courses?

I will continue to use Cengage text books both in lecture and online so that my students can experience the (Mind-Tap learning management system). I feel it is an amazing feature in online teaching that gives students the ability to learn at there on pace, while enhancing student understanding thru algorithmically developed problem solving.

In short, I feel Victor Valley College Students will experience and enriched style of learning Economics as I adopt, improve and test some of the methods discovered at the conference.

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