

Defining, Supporting & Valuing
TEACHING EXCELLENCE

At Purdue University

New Faculty & Lecturer Orientation | August 17, 2023

Dr. Kim Illingworth

Chair of the Teaching Academy

Assistant Dean for Learning and Assessment | Professor of Pharmacy Practice

Dr. Dawn Laux

Member of the Teaching Academy Executive Council

Associate Department Head | Clinical Associate Professor in Computer and Information Technology

AGENDA

- Teaching Academy
- Framework for Teaching Excellence
- Application of Framework
- Tips and Advice from Teaching Academy Members





TEACHING ACADEMY

ENHANCING & STRENGTHENING TEACHING

To enhance and strengthen the quality of teaching and learning at the undergraduate and graduate levels and to provide leadership for outreach efforts to improve K-12 education.

Through facilitated programming, development of networks, recognitions, and input on teaching-related topics.

TEACHING
ACADEMY

RECOGNIZING
TEACHING

Become a Teaching Academy
Fellow or Associate Fellow by
demonstrating excellence in:

Impact of Teaching
Service & Mentoring
Innovation
Scholarship

Contributions to the Academy

178

TEACHING ACADEMY MEMBERS

12

EXECUTIVE COUNCIL MEMBERS

1

VOICE FOR TEACHING EXCELLENCE

EXPLORER

An **Explorer** is a scholar of teaching and learning and a mentor/role model for other academics.

EXPERIMENTER

Experimenters are instructors who are ready to adapt to changes in audience, instructional methods, and educational content. They proactively incorporate innovative instructional strategies and technologies using a variety of perspectives.

EDUCATOR

Educators are instructors who engage learners using a variety of learner-centered activities that are inclusive, motivating, relevant to the real world, application-based, and that which promotes creativity, critical thinking, and collaboration.

ENTHUSIAST

Enthusiasts are instructors who are subject matter experts, passionate about their teaching and discipline, and who want to transfer that passion to their students, whether in the classroom or as a mentor. They prepare students for future careers and collaborate actively with

EXEMPLAR

Exemplars are instructors who demonstrate a caring, approachable, and personable relationship with students and are empathetic to student needs. They establish a respectful learning environment and support, motivate, and mentor students.

Excellent teachers create an environment and adopt pedagogies that allow students to meet learning outcomes and achieve their full potential as learners. All instructors strive for excellence as Exemplars, Enthusiasts, and Educators. Instructors whose research encompasses teaching and learning should additionally strive for excellence as Experimenters and Explorers.

FRAMEWORK FOR TEACHING EXCELLENCE

Excellent teachers create an environment and adopt pedagogies that allow students to meet learning outcomes and achieve their full potential as learners. All instructors strive for excellence as Exemplars, Enthusiasts, and Educators. Instructors whose research encompasses teaching and learning should additionally strive for excellence as Experimenters and Explorers.

EXPLORER

- Enhances undergraduate educational experience
- Creates scholarly contributions to teaching & learning
- Shares teaching effectiveness
- Engages in professional development
- Initiates educational development opportunities
- Applies knowledge to societal challenges

EXPERIMENTER

- Continuously improves course instruction & pedagogy
- Implements innovative instructional methods to improve the process of learning, e.g., to enhance instruction via instructional strategies, activities, use of technology, applying learning theories, interdisciplinary collaborations, assessment & collaborative learning
- Adapts to teaching emergencies

EDUCATOR

- Communicates learning goals
- Sets realistic expectations
- Applies inclusive, equity-minded pedagogy
- Connects to real world
- Engages & challenges learners
- Promotes creativity, critical thinking & problem-solving
- Uses evidence-based instructional strategies
- Relates theory to practice
- Provides constructive feedback
- Open to feedback
- Critically examines own positionality

ENTHUSIAST

- Subject matter expert
- Passionate about subject & student learning
- Enjoys teaching
- Inspires life-long learning
- Provides career guidance
- Engages in trans-/interdisciplinary collaborations

EXEMPLAR

- Caring
- Inclusive, equity-minded
- Approachable
- Personable
- Empathetic
- Motivator
- Mentor (personal)
- Listener
- Trustworthy
- Accessible
- Respectful of diversity
- Humorous
- Empowers students
- Academic honesty
- Integrity

ADVANCED

FOUNDATIONAL

EVALUATION TOOLS

TEACHING PORTFOLIOS

STUDENT RATINGS, PEER OBSERVATIONS, ALUMNI REVIEWS

THE 2020-2025 GUIDE FOR DEVELOPING & DOCUMENTING

TEACHING EXCELLENCE



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TEACHING
EXCELLENCE

DEMONSTRATING TEACHING EXCELLENCE

Strategies for demonstrating
the foundational elements—
Exemplar, Educator,
Enthusiast



EXEMPLAR

- Caring
- Inclusive, equity-minded
- Approachable
- Personable
- Empathetic
- Motivator
- Mentor (personal)
- Listener
- Trustworthy
- Accessible
- Respectful of diversity
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- Empowers students
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- Integrity

Arrive a few minutes before and stay a few minutes after class

Learn students' names and use them in class

Walk around the room and chat with students

Outline expectations in syllabus and adhere to those guidelines

Respond to email in a timely way

Use student input in creating activities or assessments

Create opportunities for individual or small group meetings

ENTHUSIAST

- Subject matter expert
- Passionate about subject and student learning
- Enjoys teaching
- Inspires life-long learning
- Provides career guidance
- Engages in trans- and interdisciplinary collaborations

Provide guidance on how subject matter can be used in career

Discuss personal experience(s) with subject matter and its relevance

Share personal examples on applying expertise to the real world

Use student feedback to modify course in future offerings

Update course annually and as subject matter changes

Outline how subject matter has evolved and how to stay current

EDUCATOR

- Communicates learning goals
- Sets realistic expectations
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Outline learning objectives at the beginning of class

Demonstrate how topic can be used in a given scenario

Collect feedback throughout course

Provide opportunities for guided practice

Utilize strategies to provide immediate feedback on performance

Link assessments to course goals and learning objectives

Tips and Advice from the Teaching Academy

- What is at least one thing you wish you had known when starting at Purdue as a faculty member?
- What are some strategies that you have used to engage students in the classroom?
- What are your teaching tips for course organization, student communication, and/or assessments?
- What lessons have you learned over your time as a faculty member at Purdue?
- What teaching and learning resources have you used or would recommend?

Teaching Excellence

First Week of Teaching Tips

Name them

Own the space

Arrive early

Get students interested in your topic

Set expectations

Teach something on the first day

Make it memorable



Create
Connection



**TEACHING
ACADEMY**

THANK YOU!

Dr. Kim Illingworth
Chair, Teaching Academy
Assistant Dean for Learning and Assessment
Professor of Pharmacy Practice
illingworth@purdue.edu

Dr. Dawn Laux
Member, Teaching Academy Executive
Council
Associate Department Head
Clinical Associate Professor in Computer and
Information Technology
dlaux@purdue.edu