Towson University’s Universal Design for Learning (UDL) Faculty Development Initiatives
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What is UDL?
Universal Design for Learning (UDL)
- Designed to develop educational environments that give all individuals an equal opportunity to learn (CAST, 2012).
- Scientifically validated framework (HEOA, 2008) for supporting all learners through flexible curriculum that utilizes multiple means of
  • engagement,
  • action and expression,
  • representation.
- Encourages faculty to add instructional options to challenge advanced learners & supports for students at the margins.
- Enables a cultural shift toward student-centered practices and inclusiveness in teaching.

See: http://udlexchange.cast.org/

UDL at Towson
Course Example Upgrade ISTC 301 Integrating Instructional Technology
- Required 3 credit course for ed. majors
- Course taught in computing lab often as a hybrid employing Blackboard
- Course has a key assignment - Practical teaching experience (PTE) which is where we added UDL elements & major course
- Based on Course data we made this significant and successful change
- Course outcome data revealed positive integration of UDL ideas in student work

UDL Exchange
- 50 University Faculty UDL-PDN Members
- 6 Colleges, 1 University Library
- 14 Disciplines
- From Art... to Business... to Education... to Literature... to Science...
- 85 UDL Learning Objects
- 50 UDL Resources, 25 UDL Lessons, 30 UDL Collections

UDL Professional Development Network (UDL-PDN) 2013-2016.
- 85 faculty and staff participate in professional learning communities that include
  • face-to-face and online professional development,
  • just in time support by a UDL facilitator,
  • professional learning opportunities,
  • tool and resource sharing.
- Faculty coaches with advanced UDL training provide peer-to-peer support

Wide array of updates, teaching materials
- revised syllabi, final projects,
- learning assessments,
- digital learning objects.

College of Education & Dept. Upgrades
- Numerous courses- intro thru graduate
- Programs in an array of areas

Next Steps
Cross Campus Implementation
- Gen Ed Course Redesign
- Peer Consultations & Cohorts
- Revision of Appointment, Reappointment, & Tenure policy that values & rewards the work of UDL.

Learn More
Web Resources
- National Center on UDL http://udlc.org/
- CAST is the organization behind UDL http://www.cast.org/
- Collection of UDL resources from CAST http://udlexchange.cast.org/home
- UDL on Campus http://udloncampus.cast.org/
- Student examples:
  - http://tiaratyer.weebly.com/projects.html
  - http://deanna-istc.weebly.com
  - http://jmille113.weebly.com/