International Faculty Adapting with Today’s Cal Poly Student

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CTLT is offering this learning community for international faculty during the academic year 2019-2020 to support them in their distinctive role working at Cal Poly as they pursue excellence in their teaching. If you regard yourself as international faculty, whether for the reason that you were born outside of the U.S., you speak a second language, or for some other reason, then you are invited to participate in our year-long international faculty community. Based on prior Cal Poly International Faculty Learning Communities, we understand that international faculty members bring special benefits to the university, but encounter additional challenges that are both common and individually unique: a) Many students, for example, are culturally different in their lack of formality or some may have had the experience of being fully scheduled by their parents or perhaps some believe they have entitlement and some are outspoken; b) Classroom dynamics may be different and students may be challenged with accents; or c) University requirements and the tenure and promotion process may be different, and/or the process for professional development may have different requirements than elsewhere. The path taken by this community will address these challenges and will be based on the backgrounds and needs of the members and will include, as appropriate, the use of scholarly literature, classroom observations by the community facilitator, individual discussions with each participant, and actions taken by the participants. This community will prove useful for new or veteran faculty members, and participants will find valuable support from the other community participants.

The goal of any educator should be to motivate and excite the process of learning. The planned classroom experience should not be one of simply imparting information to the learners, but to motivate and assist them as they pursue their own learning. This is best accomplished if we better understand our students. This workshop will explore student characteristics that influence their educational path and explore instructional changes that may be made to best suit current student learning styles. By making teaching/learning adjustments to create a pedagogy that better matches the current student learning requirements, students will be more excited and struggle less. Workshop participants will formulate possible classroom adjustments that may be used to improve the student learning experience.

Come and join our learning community for the 2019-20 academic year!