Who are Your Students? Using Learner Profiles to Inform Teaching Practice

Allison O'Grady, MA
Sr. Instructional Support Specialist
Adjunct Faculty
University College I University of Denver

Michelle Kruse-Crocker, PhD
Associate Teaching Professor
Academic Director
University College I University of Denver

Who Are We?

Allison O'Grady

Michelle Kruse-Crocker

University College at DU

- School of Continuing & Professional Studies

- 13 Academic Programs and other non-credit offerings

- Over 1500 students at University College

- 34 is the average student age

- Quarter System, 4 per year

Problem Identified.

- Shift in student population.

- Increase in variety of student backgrounds.

- Needed more insight into student preferences and styles.

- Wanted to tailor delivery approaches up front.

Tying it All Together

- Differentiated Learning

- Universal Design for Learning

- Accessibility

- Mastery Pathways

- Competency-Based Education

- Diverse & Inclusive Practices

- Individualized Learning

What Are Learner Profiles?

- Platform to learn more about your students to inform design and delivery

- Above the standard "Who Are You?" questions

- Often Used in K-12 Environment

- Flexible Platform but usually 2 components: Public & Private

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Benefits of Using the Profiles

- Focus on getting to know your students on a personal level

- Who is in your class?

- Promotes flexible learning environment, UDL, differentiated instruction

- Creates community in your class

- Allows students to communicate learning styles and needs

- What is the purpose of the profile?

What Can Learner Profiles Include?

- Learning Goals for the Course

- Source of Motivation

- Assessment of Strengths & Areas of Improvements

- Preferred Learning Styles

- Professional Background

- Level of Commitment to the Course

- Personal Information/Family Life

- Assessments

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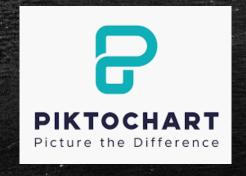Ross-Gordon, Jovita M. 2011. "Research on Adult Learners: Supporting the Needs of a Student Population that is No Longer Nontraditional." *Association of American Colleges and Universities*, 13, no.
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Public Vs. Private Information

Public

- Get to Know Me
- Educational Background
- Type of Learner
- Courses Taken
- Professional Experience

Private

- Strengths and Opportunities to improve
- What is Needed from Faculty
- Experience in Groups/Teams
- Familiarity on Content

Tools Used to Create The Public Profiles

Let's Check Out Some Samples

What Can You Do with the Information?

- Alter topic choices on course assignments

- Offer options to meet course objectives

- Build in opportunities to tap into student interests

- Evaluate presentation methods

- Survey the knowledge that you already have in the room

- Consider feedback methods based on student input

- Caution:

- Changing Alignment

- Catering too much in one direction

- Overthinking the course

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Contact Us!

Allison O'Grady: Allison.ogrady@du.edu
Michelle Kruse-Crocker: Michelle.Kruse-crocker@du.edu