

# **“LET’S GET ON THE SAME PAGE:” FACULTY SUPPORTING FACULTY TO PROMOTE TRANSFORMATIVE LEARNING INITIATIVES**

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## *AN INTERACTIVE PRESENTATION*

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## **EXTENDED ABSTRACT**

Over the past decade, the University of Central Oklahoma (UCO) has successfully articulated and implemented a university-wide mission to help students learn by providing transformative education experiences in six primary areas, which the university has identified as the *Central Six Transformative Learning Tenets*: 1) discipline knowledge; 2) research, scholarly, and creative activities; 3) leadership; 4) health and wellness; 5) global and cultural competencies; and 6) service learning and civic engagement. UCO has fulfilled this mission through a series of strategic, yet adaptable, initiatives to *institutionalize* transformative learning across all academic disciplines, including the construction of a Transformative Learning building on campus, the features of which allow for high-impact teaching practices, and the implementation of a five-year, 7.7 million dollar grant from the United States Department of Education’s Strengthening Institutions Program that supports innovative methods for assessing transformative learning experiences and provides funding for both student and faculty projects focused on transformative learning.

One important step in the efforts to institutionalize transformative learning at UCO has involved familiarizing faculty with high-impact practices, encouraging faculty to incorporate more of these practices into their courses, and removing barriers faculty members face as they move from a transactional to a transformative approach to teaching and learning. UCO addressed these needs by appointing UCO faculty members who were leaders in transformative learning as transformative learning tenant liaisons and charging them with providing resources, mentorship, and ongoing support to faculty who want to emphasize one or more transformative learning tenets in addition to discipline knowledge in their courses.

The members of this conference panel currently serve as UCO’s transformative learning tenet liaisons. In this role, they collaborate with faculty from across the university and with colleagues in Student Affairs to identify and introduce emerging best practices in transformative learning, to promote the integration of transformative learning activities in both curricular and co-curricular programs, and to encourage the development of independent, student-led transformative learning projects.

During this interactive conference session, the UCO transformative learning tenet liaisons provided attendees the opportunity to 1) discuss the importance of faculty engagement in institutional transformative learning initiatives; 2) learn about the methods UCO uses to encourage all faculty members to create transformative learning opportunities; 3) discuss the barriers faculty members commonly face when implementing high-impact teaching practices; 4) learn about UCO programs that encourage faculty-student collaborations in research, scholarly, and creative activities; and 5) discuss the

challenges that participants confront at their home institutions as they participate in university-wide transformative learning efforts.

### SELECT REFERENCES

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