

Engage with SoTL

3 Keys & Motivations of SoTL that Resonate with My Professional Experience and Practices

Keys

1. Raising NEW Questions - Creating the 'Inquiry'
2. Reflecting on Teaching - Focusing on the Student
3. Research - To ensure that one's teaching is performed systematically.

Motivations

1. Renewed excitement about teaching and learning, and greater self-awareness (*Personal Benefits Growth & Development*)
2. Useful data for assessments, program reviews, retention strategies, and accreditation process (*Institutional Benefits*)
3. Stronger institutional values on teaching and learning (*Student's benefits*)

Other Members contributed the following valuable comments regarding SoTL Motivations

1. Building networks among faculty to share strategies and increase student outcomes.

Brian:

As reviewed in the Collaboration Module, internal and external resources are invaluable in teaching, advancing curriculum and assessing programming for the next generation of students as the market place continues to evolve.

2. Better student outcomes--specifically that students recognize change in themselves.

Brian:

This is also vital. Many students enter post-secondary education lacking confidence. Some of this is self-induced, but reportedly coming from their 'early years' when the support network was not in place, as it should be. Student's recognizing advancement in their hard and soft skills is a huge motivator and sets the stage for entrepreneurial work especially.

3. #4 (to add to my list) Promote departmental/institutional research

Brian: Based on my review of the video **Making a Case for SoTL**

Point 1. Never been witnessed. A senior administrator of a college who didn't want to provide evidence that their institution was doing good work educationally.

Point 2. Not all SoTL research shows that 'we are doing beautifully'. 'KPI's' for example are focused more on graduation rates, student employment numbers, data regarding grade inflation etc.....but more research would provide more in-depth study into what we are delivering and the impact it's having specifically to our disciplines.