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3 Keys to SoTL

Innovation – Finding new ways to incorporate what is happening in the world to the classroom that aligns with material being taught in a particular module, but also being innovative in trying to show what is being explored in the classroom can align with what is happening in the world. Innovation means trying to show an ongoing integration of learning and reflecting with what student’s are engaging with at a particular moment in time.

Communication – I primarily teach international students, so communication is always top of mind for me. Not just communicating on a level of content, but also identifying barriers and challenges among international students. Therefore, communication is a constant in my SoTL process.

Re-design – Re-design aligns totally with previous comment regarding communication. Whatever I had planned for the class oftentimes does not fit with engagement with students. I may actually be backtracking quite a bit before moving forward. My SoTL is in a constant state of re-design.

3 Motivations for SoTL

Aligning with the commitment to teaching from institution

The ability to find continuous best-practices and implementing them is a commitment from my institution – there are many learning opportunities that I want to be part of and see what can help me develop my teaching, in particular, with new technologies.

Community of Scholars

Sharing what is happening in my classrooms, what I observe, and I that I have encountered bringing it to a broader conversation.

Bringing in industry experts to assist me with aligning classroom learning and activities to what is happening in the industry – and readying future employees with what is happening in their chosen industry.

Outcomes and Assessments

Not just with assessments and test scores, but I have been able to engage students in a way that allows them to see the relevance with what we are doing – and therefore, increasing their buy-in to each module and class.