

KU CET PANEL DISCUSSION - Spring 2021

Strategies for Facilitating a Successful Learning Community

Tuesday, March 23rd, 11:00am-11:50am

<https://kutztown.zoom.us/j/390059274>



Dr. Lisa Frye



Dr. Yoon Mi Kim



Dr. Julie Palkendo



Dr. Amy Pfeiler-Wunder

Abstract: Learning communities (LC) are designed to bring together students with similar interests/backgrounds so they will participate with faculty and fellow students in academically-engaging experiences. LC can help first-year students in the transition from high school to college in a sense of feeling more responsible and experienced, and researchers found students in LCs have higher grades and retention rates. During this panel discussion, our panelists will share their experience about how to run successful learning communities to build community with students, faculty, and the Kutztown university and Kutztown community. Various LC activities will be discussed including those that worked and those that didn't work.

About the Panelists:

Dr. Lisa Frye is a Professor and chair of the Computer Science and Information Technology Department. Her research interests include networks, network security and computer science education. She is actively involved in a variety of initiatives to increase the number of women in computer science and STEM. Lisa has been participating in learning communities since 2003, both as a course instructor and learning community organizer. She will be leading a living learning community in the fall for computer science and math, which is also a part of an NSF S-STEM grant for awarding scholarships to underrepresented students in CS, IT and Math.

Dr. Yoon Mi Kim is an Associate Professor of the Social Work Department and teaches in the BSW, MSW, and DSW programs. Her scholarship includes "Evaluation of a Baccalaureate Social Work Learning Community", and her study findings suggest that the Social Work Learning Community was effective in developing first-year students' attachment to the social work program, which could foster both academic and social relatedness and increased institutional commitment in their first semester.

Dr. Julie Palkendo is a Professor of Chemistry in the Dept of Physical Science with teaching and research focuses in general chemistry, analytical chemistry, and environmental science courses. She initiated and ran a Learning Community for all incoming majors in the Chemistry & Biochemistry Program from 2013-2018 that was paired with enrollment in the notorious, first-semester, General Chemistry I course.

Dr. Amy Pfeiler-Wunder is a Professor of Art Education, Department Chair and Coordinator of the Masters of Art Education Graduate program in the Department of Art Education. Her research examines the impact of intersectionality on one's professional identity with keen attention to views of the learners and curriculum implementation. She designed and facilitated the first Living and Learning Community for the College of Visual and Performing Arts, collaborating with faculty members to connect students to the visual art community at Kutztown University.