Active & Collaborative Learning Conference
Bryant Conference Center
February 29, 2008

8:30a.m. - 9:00a.m. Registration – Coffee, Juice, Pastries, & Fruit

9:00a.m. - 10:15a.m. Workshop I: Making Group Work “Work” - Getting Started with Collaborative Learning
    Presenter: Dr. Elizabeth Barkley

Engaging students through active learning is a predominant theme in today's classrooms. To promote learning, teachers across the disciplines and in all kinds of colleges are incorporating collaborative learning into their teaching. In this interactive workshop, participants will learn a variety of collaborative learning techniques and acquire practical information on topics such as how to orient students, form groups, assign roles, and design effective group work activities.

10:30a.m. - 11:30a.m. Workshop II: Making Group Work “Work” - Using Collaborative Learning Techniques Effectively
    Presenter: Dr. Elizabeth Barkley

Intended for both those who attended Workshop I as well as those already familiar with collaborative learning techniques, this workshop is designed to increase your repertoire of strategies for dealing with common challenges such as inequitable participation, student resistance to group work, off-task behavior, assessing learning, and ensuring individual accountability. Participants will leave this workshop with solid information on how to make group work “work” in today’s college classroom.

11:45a.m. - 12:45p.m. Complementary Luncheon

1:00p.m. – 1:50p.m. Concurrent Sessions

Session A: Informal Q & A
    Facilitators: Dr. Elizabeth Barkley and Dr. Claire Major

During this session, faculty can discuss with Elizabeth and Claire particular issues, problems, or concerns they have on how to integrate collaborative learning into their own courses and disciplines. Elizabeth has particular expertise in teaching large, entry-level classes and Claire has particular expertise in smaller, advanced classes.

Session B: Active & Collaborative Learning Outside of the Classroom
    Presenters: Dr. Katie Busby and Dr. Jennifer Jones

Active and Collaborative learning not only shapes the classroom experience, it impacts a student’s overall campus experience as well. The research shows that student engagement with faculty and in co-curricular learning opportunities contributes to student success – that is, persistence and graduation. This session will invite you to consider how you can pair collaborative learning techniques with out-of-class activities to strengthen and positively impact students.

2:00p.m. – 2:50p.m. Concurrent Sessions

Session A: Active & Collaborative Learning Techniques for the Online Environment
    Presenter: Dr. Claire Major

Faculty who teach online courses report that one of their greatest challenges is implementing successful and appropriate collaborative activities. This session will focus on strategies for incorporating group work into online courses.

Session B: Examples of Active & Collaborative Learning Activities at UA
    Presenters: UA Faculty Panel

A panel of UA faculty will share descriptions of active and collaborative activities incorporated in their classes giving emphasis to how student learning is enhanced as a result of the collaborative experiences.

3:00p.m. – 3:50p.m. Brainstorming Session: How Active & Collaborative Learning Activities Can Be Supported Inside and Outside the Classroom
    Facilitator: Dr. Mark Nelson

An invited panel of university leaders plus conference participants will brainstorm potential actions that could be taken within the University to support faculty and staff in advancing curricular and co-curricular active and collaborative learning activities.

3:50p.m. – 4:00p.m. Conference Wrap-up
    Co-hosts: Dr. Bob Smallwood & Dr. Claire Major

Pre-register at http://assessment.ua.edu