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Department of Composition and WAC

School of General Education

Purdue University Global

Busting Brightspace and Exchanging with Educators: Fostering Student Success Through Faculty-Led Development

Agenda

Overview, Outcomes and Research

Faculty Development at PG and Session Content

Educators' Exchanges

Brightspace Busting

Discussion, References, and Contact Information

2019 Educators' Exchange

Overview, Outcomes, and Research

Teresa Marie Kelly, MAT
Faculty, CM 107
Department of Composition and Writing Across the Curriculum

Brightspace Busting
Intelligent Uses of Intelligent Agents

Host: William Ashley Johnson

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Overview

This session will examine how the Composition and Writing Across the Curriculum Department employs two ongoing series of faculty led sessions to foster continuous development specifically tailored to the needs of its faculty.

Session Outcomes

Explore	Explore the research behind employing faculty-led development in higher education;
Define	Define the specific development needs in the Department of Composition;
Discuss	Discuss how the department meets these needs; and
Examine	Examine the specific examples of faculty lead development sessions.

Why Focus on Faculty Development?

McKee & Tewv (2013) call faculty development a complicated but necessary discussion in higher education.

Kane, et. al (2016) state that because it is so impactful, higher education institutions must make faculty development a priority

Jackson, Jones, and Rodriguez (2010). concludes that developing instructor effectiveness and engagement directly impacts student learning and success.

Drawbacks to Traditional Development Models

Steinert (2010) says static content such as workshops, seminars, and training courses often dominate faculty development.

Koch (2008) argues that this static, prescribed content squanders the unique resources faculty bring, including individual expertise skills sets, experiences, and motivating factors.

McConnell, et. al (2013) maintains that these structured delivery methods neglect the needs of individual faculty and lack organic discovery and discussion about emerging concepts.

Distance Education and Traditional Faculty Development

Sense of Isolation

- Cady and Rearden (2009) indicate that for distance educators, traditional, static development contributes to a sense of isolation from peers.

Lack of Trust

- Cox (2012) finds that such content also fails to build trust and community due to a lack of group problem-solving elements.

Neglects Faculty Needs

- McAllister, Oprescu, and Jones (2014) maintain that these factors also add to distance educators' perceptions that their professional and career goals are not a priority.

2019 Educators' Exchange

Effective Faculty Development – PG and Composition/WAC

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Characteristics of Effective Faculty Development Present at PG

Priorities

- For Higher Education, Bedford and Rossow (2017) note that effective development of faculty encompasses individual, department, and institutional priorities.

Approaches

- Herman (2012) notes that diverse needs and experiences mean that faculty development and support needs innovative and personalized approaches

Primary Goal

- As Bedford and Rossow (2017) conclude, what faculty require from development takes precedence.

Delivery

- Mujtaba (2011) argues that faculty led development addresses all of the key factors missing from more traditional models.

How Faculty Development at Purdue Global Differs

Purdue Global shows a unique commitment to faculty training and support.

PG fosters a culture of faculty-centric development throughout the University from its Center for Teaching and Learning through school, program, and department level offerings.

PG emphasizes professional, career and personal growth for all faculty.

Faculty Development in Composition/WAC

To address specific faculty needs, the Composition and WAC Department developed two faculty driven development series – Educator Exchanges and Brightspace Busting.

The Assistant Chair who coordinates the two series, the FTA who created and manages Brightspace Busting, and a Full-Time Faculty member who has presented for and attended both will discuss the sessions.

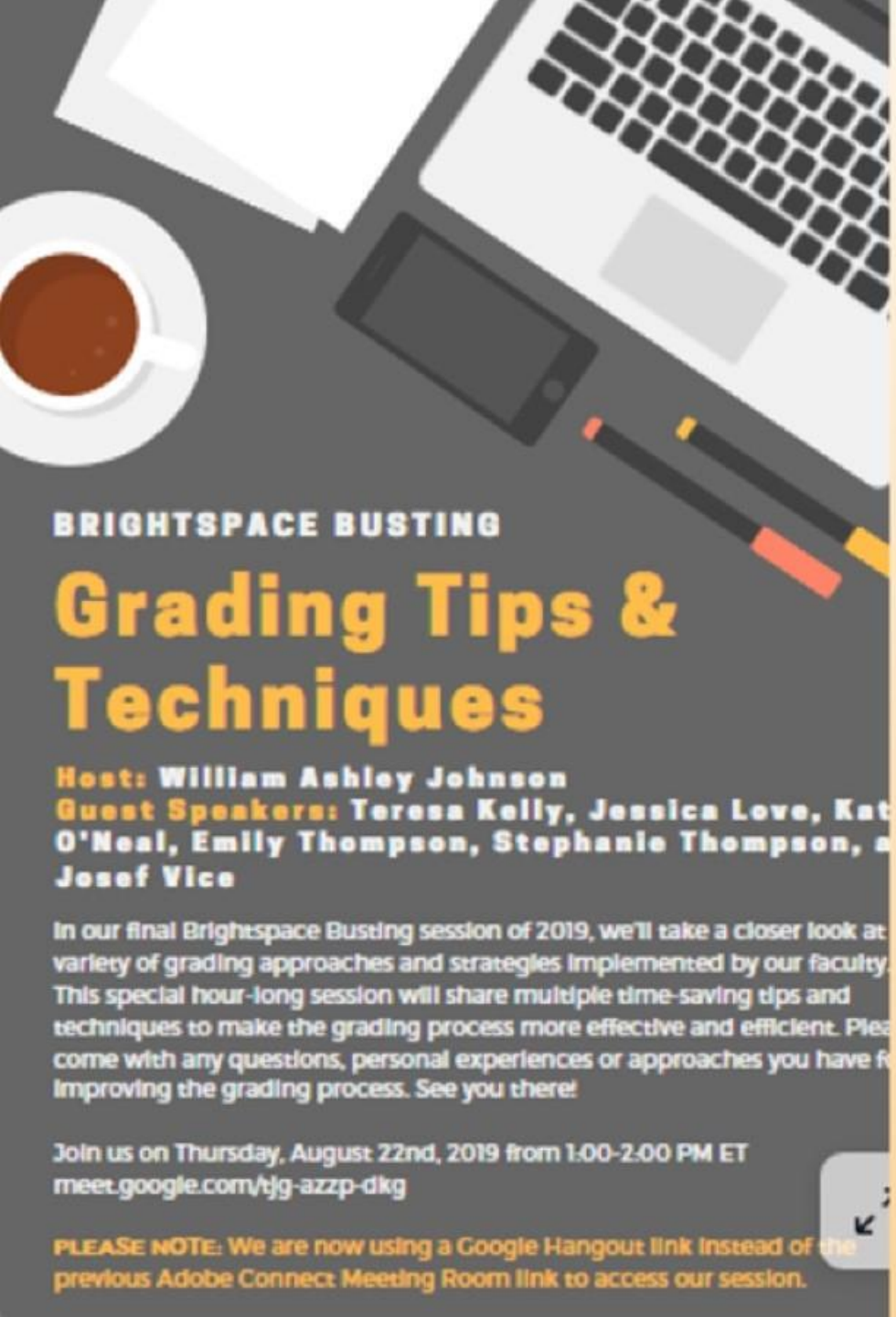
They will share how they are organized, the topics they cover, and their impact on teaching and learning.

Brightspace Busting

Ashley Johnson, MFA
Full-time Adjunct
Department of Composition and Writing Across the Curriculum

What is Brightspace Busting?

- Informal faculty-development sessions focused on sharing techniques for maximizing the Brightspace Learning Management System (LMS).
- Instructors are provided an open forum to ask questions, share experiences and collaborate with colleagues regarding the session topic.



How it Works

- Before developing session ideas, the department utilized Survey Monkey to gauge instructor interest, determine instructor availability and invite topic suggestions for sessions.
- Meetings are thirty minutes in length and held at the same time on the last Thursday of each month.
- Sessions are informal and not recorded in order to maximize faculty engagement.
- Materials and takeaways are provided.

Topics Covered

Sessions cover a variety of topics, including:

- utilizing Intelligent Agents
- creating engaging announcements
- facilitating live seminars
- managing CLA completion
- making use of statistical tools
- implementing various time-saving strategies for discussion, grading, seminar, and outreach

Brightspace Busting Goes Global!

In 2020, sessions will be one hour in length and held quarterly. These sessions will be open to the entire School of General Education (SoGE).

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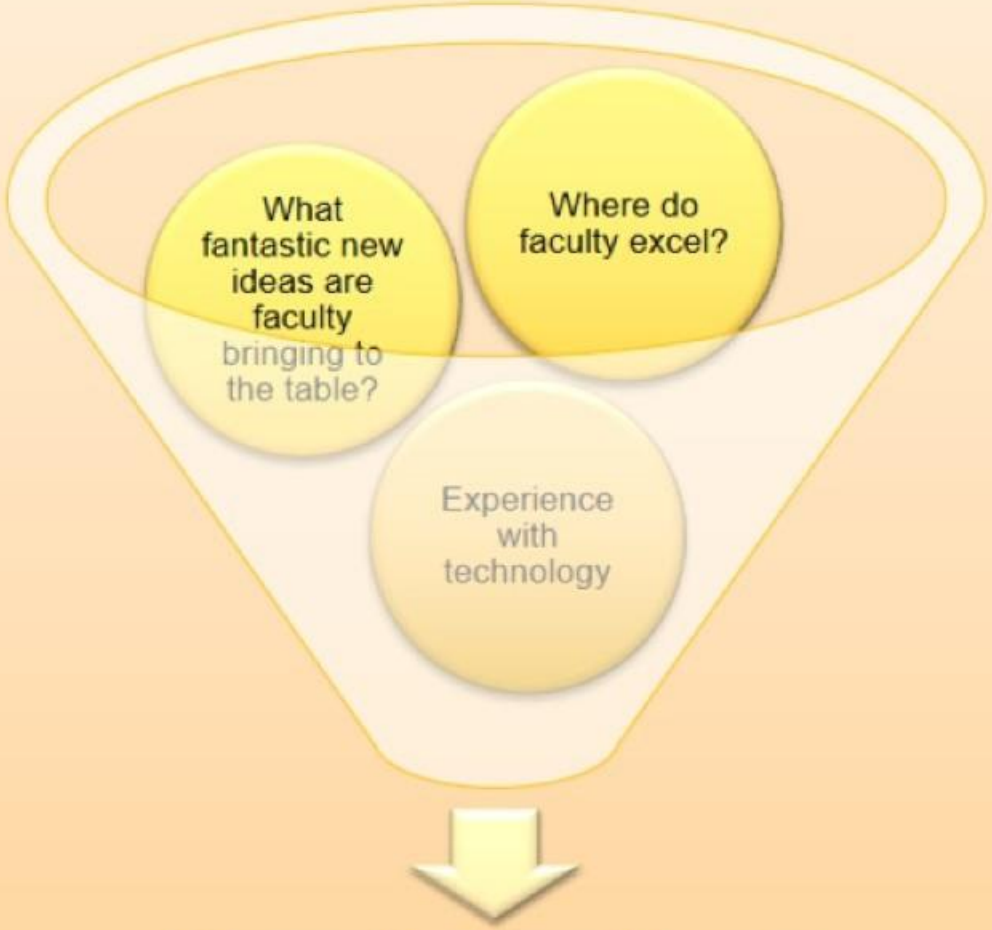
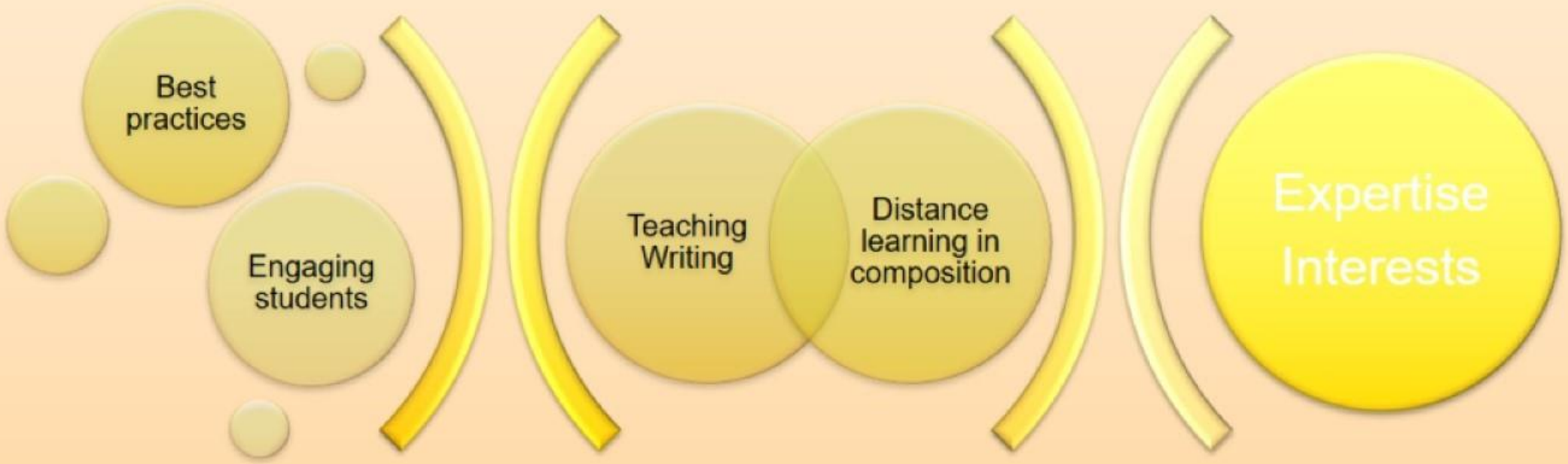
Educators' Exchanges

Barbara Green, MA, MS
Assistant Department Chair
Department of Composition and
Writing Across the Curriculum

Turning Classroom Strengths into PD Opportunities



Turning Faculty Research into PD Opportunities



Recent Topics

- Using Technology to Make Grading Easier, Faster, and Better
- Interpersonal Skills
- Words Matter: Identifying and Addressing Multiple Forms of Bias in the Classroom
- Defensive Professional Writing
- Virtual Teaching Assistants – Using Intelligent Agents to Increase Faculty Presence and Student Engagement**
- Mental Health Hygiene for Writing Teachers
- Beyond the "I": Facilitating Objectivity in Formal Writing
- Formative Assessment

2019 Educators' Exchange

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Educator Exchanges Archives and Brightspace Busting Resources

Educator's Exchanges

Brightspace Busting

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Session Questions? Ideas? Future Projects?

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