Student-Centered Teaching through Experiential Learning and Assessment

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Plant & Environmental Sciences

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Friday, September 28
10:30–11:30 a.m.
Room 50 Milton Hall

Experiential learning is “the process whereby knowledge is created through the transformation of experience. Knowledge results from the combination of grasping and transforming experience” (Kolb, 1984, p. 41). According to experiential learning theory, in order to gain genuine knowledge from a learning experience, the students must:

1. Be willing to be actively involved in the experience (concrete experience);
2. Be able to reflect on the experience (reflective observation);
3. Possess or learn and use analytical skills to conceptualize the experience (abstract conceptualization); and
4. Possess or learn decision making and problem solving skills in order to use the new ideas gained from the experience (active experimentation).

This workshop will focus on developing exercises to train students in the four areas of experiential learning and developing tools to assess its impact on student learning.

Kulbhushan Grover, Ph.D., is an assistant professor of sustainable crop production in the Department of Plant and Environmental Sciences. He enjoys teaching, research and extension in sustainable crop production and organic agriculture. He teaches undergraduate and graduate courses including University Teaching Experience. He has introduced several teaching methods in his classes including experiential learning, team-based learning, and inquiry based projects. He has also presented his teaching strategies at the New Mexico Higher Education and Assessment Conference.

Shelly Stovall, Ph.D., taught music for the first 18 years of her tenure at NMSU. A long-time leader in the area of assessment, in 2008 she began splitting her time between teaching and assessment at the institutional level. She is currently the director of assessment and is engaged in promoting and facilitating assessment at all levels across the institution. Shelly has presented locally and nationally on the subject, and is committed to empowering faculty to improve student learning through use of authentic assessment practices.