Engaging Millennial Learners

Christy Price
Dalton State College

Thursday, August 30
8:30–11:30 a.m.
Room 50 Milton Hall

What factors influence student motivation and desire to learn? Research in educational psychology suggests one thing we can do is to create learning environments that are in some ways linked to, and supportive of, the current student culture. During this participatory session, we will briefly review the literature regarding the culture of the millennial student and apply the findings of the presenter’s research regarding millennial student culture. We will specifically discuss the characteristics of millennials’ ideal learning environments, their preferences regarding assessments, their perceptions regarding the characteristics of the ideal professor, and their ideal institutional practices. Throughout the workshop, participants will engage in activities that will require them to reflect on their own teaching methods and/or institutional practices. Open-ended questionnaires, checklists, and digitized video clips of student interviews will be utilized to facilitate discussion regarding practical steps we can take to meet the needs of millennial learners.

Participants will:
1. Recognize the characteristics of millennial learners and consider how these characteristics impact teaching and learning.
2. Identify the characteristics of ideal learning environments for millennials and analyze how well your learning environments meet their needs.
3. Describe millennial student preferences regarding assignments and assessments and examine the assignments and assessments you utilize based on millennial preferences.
4. Discuss millennial learners’ perceptions regarding the ideal professor and assess how well you meet these perceptions.
5. Reflect on how you might transform your teaching methods as you apply the findings of the research on millennial learners.

Christy Price, Ph.D., is a professor of psychology at Dalton State College and has been teaching at the collegiate level for 20 years. Dr. Price has won many teaching awards at from the institute to the national level, including the 2010 Carnegie Foundation for the Advancement of Teaching U.S. Professor Award for the state of Georgia. Dr. Price’s awards are, in part, a result of her use of innovative strategies in assisting students to achieve learning outcomes. Her most recent research focuses on engaging Millennial learners and preventing incivility in the classroom.