

QEP MT-Engage Focus Group with Students

A focus group was held with 5 student participants in Spring 2015. Responses are summarized below.

Student Engagement / active learning .

- **What do you think of when I say student engagement ? What comes to mind - what does it mean to say that a student is engaged?**

Responses included: Interacting with peers, Sharing ideas, Assigning meaningfulness, Seeing connections--what do we do with the content when we leave?, Apply content to life or career, Professor incorporates what I want to learn, Internships, Work in teams, Group projects, Professor explains purpose and relevance

- **What are the benefits of engagement / active learning to students:**

All agreed active learning and engagement is important.

Responses included:

- Learn and retain more information if you are active in your learning.
- If I did more hands on practice I may retain more.

Reflection

If students are engaged and are involved in active learning, is it important for students to be able to reflect on what they are learning?

Respondents indicated that reflection was an important part of the student's learning.

Responses included:

- When I think of reflection I think: Is it relevant to me?
- I get good grades and don't know how I got it. How could I repeat that?
- Most helpful when you do an event and then ask us to reflect or brief it and then you understand the relevance.
- Student need faculty to help them reflect.
- Reflection is helpful even when you understand the material.
- Get something out of reading others reflections.

Documenting student learning in ePortfolio

- **Is it important for students to be able to document what they are learning through their engagement / active learning activities?**
- **What are the benefits of students documenting what they are learning in an ePortfolio?**

Responses included:

- Yes helpful
- Great way to reveal what you know
- See where you are going next
- Found it valuable in the past in interview to have products to demonstrate competencies
- Way we share and show ourselves-- help us summarize what we know and have learned
- Yes definitely it would help with getting hired if it is well done
- Students would need help creating their ePortfolio
- I know this is something I need to do.

ePortfolios

What should be included in an e-portfolio?

- Skills and knowledge

- About you section
- Videos of demonstrating a skill
- Introduction video -- gives tone etc.

The QEP MT-Engage

Comments? Initial impressions?

Responses were all positive.

Suggestions?

- Students need to understand the importance of the program. What is in it for them?
- Need career development center connection....career fair, intern fair, volunteer fair for MT Engage student
- Is there a veteran component to this? Need to touch base with them to help them put their experience in civilian terms.
- Faculty should discuss this is why we are doing this.