Creating Student-Centered Learning Environments

PIE Teaching Workshop

Presented by PIE Associates:
Kate Carnevale (Chemistry & Biochemistry)
Sarah Wilcoxon (School of Dance)
Outline

What is Student-Centered Learning?

Why is Student-Centered Learning Important?

PIE and Coffee Break!

How to Apply Student-Centered Learning In Your Classroom!
What is Student-Centered Learning?

What do you think? (Talk with your table)
Teacher-Based vs. Student-Based Learning

“I expect you all to be independent, innovative, critical thinkers who will do exactly as I say!”
DEFINITION OF: Student-Centered Learning

Teaching that *shifts* the *focus of instruction* from the teacher to the student -- aims to develop *learner autonomy* by developing skills & practices that enable *independent problem-solving* and *lifelong learning*.

*The Student becomes Responsible for Learning!*

-- The Big Shots
Why is Student-Centered Learning Important?

What do you think? (Talk with your table)
A Picture of Student-Centered Learning:

- Personalized Learning
- Student-Owned Learning
- Competency-Based Learning
- Anytime, Anywhere Learning

Deeper Learning leads to Knowledge, Skills, and Dispositions to succeed in college, career, and civic life.
Student Outcomes

“Active Learning and Student-centered Pedagogy Improve Student Attitudes and Performance in Introductory Biology.”
P Armbruster, M Patel, E Johnson, M Weiss.
PIE and Coffee Break!
What Does Student-Centered Learning Look Like?

Less Us, More Them
Creating student-centered contexts for learning

“I think it’s an exaggeration, but that there’s a lot of truth in saying that when you go to school, the trauma is that you must stop learning and you must now accept being taught.”
— Seymour Papert
Student-Centered Strategies

Emphasis on Student Input

Student Led Meetings

Where possible: Student Developed Products and Student Developed Rubrics
Example Rubric

This group member participated fully in the creative process per his/her role (no skipping meetings or rehearsals without keeping people in the loop and contributing in some other way when not there).

1  2  3  4  5

This group member balanced his/her ideas with those of the rest of the group – there was an equal focus on contributing and listening/responding to other ideas.

1  2  3  4  5

This group member brought a positive and productive energy to the creative process.

1  2  3  4  5

This group member met all his/her deadlines in a timely manner as set by the group.

1  2  3  4  5
Student-Centered Strategies

Emphasis on Student Reflection

How to ask a question

Discussion Ideas: Spider (Harkness), Fishbowl, and The Final Word

Other techniques: Journaling, Surveys, ?
Spider (Harkness) Discussion Example
How Could You Implement Student-Centered Strategies?

What do you think? (Talk in pairs!)
Wrap Up

Questions?

Comments?

Parting Thoughts?