Connection is Key

ASEE MidAtlantic Distinguished Teaching Award Seminar

Dr. Kaitlin Mallouk April 23, 2022



DEPARTMENT OF EXPERIENTIAL ENGINEERING EDUCATION

Three stories of connection



T. Michael Duncan Chemical Engineering, Cornell Fall 2001: ChemE 112, Math 192 Fall 2002: Chem 389, Spring 2003: Chem 391



Sally McConnell-Ginet Linguistics, Cornell Fall 2002: Womens 244



Ben Widom Chemistry, Cornell Fall 2001: Chem 215

Why connection?

MASLOW'S HIERARCHY OF NEEDS



Image from: @danileis on Twitter

Fostering connection in your courses

- At the start
 - Curiosity Cabinet
- Regularly, throughout
 - Daily check-ins
 - Asset maps
- Whenever an opportunity arises



At the Start



T. Michael Duncan Chemical Engineering, Cornell Fall 2001: ChemE 112, Math 192 Fall 2002: Chem 389, Spring 2003: Chem 391

At the Start

Curiosity Cabinet



Dr. Mallouk (or Dr. M) - she/her/hers











Regularly, Throughout



Sally McConnell-Ginet Linguistics, Cornell Fall 2002: Womens 244

Regularly, Throughout

Daily Check In

Energetic At Ease Stressed Exhausted

Daily Check-In via Mural.co



Daily Check-In





http://go.rowan.edu/AssetMapping

Pfeifer, G., & Stoddard, E. (2020). Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion Tools for Teamwork: Asset Mapping and Team Processing Handbook.

Student feedback

She is the only professor that hasn't belittled my makeup hobby, but took interest and helped me utilize that to explore further career options. She is incredibly in-tune to all of us, always being mindful of our needs and making sure we have what we need to be successful.

Your dedication to me and the interest you've taken in my life and me as a person; it has not gone unnoticed and it had meant more than I can explain.

Whenever the Opportunity Arises



Ben Widom Chemistry, Cornell Boltzmann Medal Winner - 1998 Fall 2001: Chem 215

Potential opportunities for connection

- Before a class period starts
- As a class period is ending
- During small group work in class
- In the hallway between classes
- In responses/feedback to assignments
- At extracurricular activities



Does this feel unnatural to you?

- Start small maybe comments on assignments feels comfortable
- Make a note in your class schedule to take time for saying hi or checking in with students
- Set up an auto-email to go to a fraction of your students each week where you ask how they're doing (and then have a dialog if they respond)



What resonates with you?

What are you doing with your students to foster connection?

What questions do you have?

