

UNLV Best Teaching Practices Expo

Thursday, January 19, 2017

Student Union Ballroom A

12:00 - 1:30 pm

Matthew L. Bernacki,

Assistant Professor, Educational Psychology & Higher Education

The teaching practice and the need it addresses:

The “Science of Learning to Learn” is a web-based training resource designed to help students develop and apply their learning skills. It is designed according to principles derived from learning sciences research that are known to have a large effect on learning and performance. The self-paced set of learning modules (on strategies, management, & environment) is embedded in the Webcampus course site. It requires students to commit 2-3 hours of effort at a time of their choosing. Additional modules include academic help seeking in college, and time management (adds ½ to 1 hour).

Evidence this practice benefits UNLV students:

Learning to Learn has twice been employed in a face-to-face large lecture biology course. Each time, those who completed the modules outperformed peers who completed alternate activities on the subsequent course exams. They also demonstrated more desired learning behaviors (i.e. related to planning and self-assessment) and ultimately achieve a partial letter grade higher than their peers (e.g. A- instead of a B+).

Learning to Learn was found to be particularly effective for students with lower prior knowledge or achievement, first generation college students, and those from under-represented ethnic groups. Each group experienced greater impact (at times 2x or more) on exams.

Resources and where to find them:

The *Science of Learning to Learn* curriculum is managed by the MALT•lab in the Department of Educational Psychology & Higher Education. It is available for incorporation to any UNLV course, with priority going to those willing to help further assess its effects on learning and achievement.

How other UNLV teachers might adopt this practice

Learning to Learn is now in Math, Science, Engineering, and Education courses and is available for incorporation into any UNLV course. Priority goes to those willing to help further assess its effects on learning. Please contact Dr. Bernacki at matt.bernacki@unlv.edu