Faculty COVID-19 Reflection 17

Karen Phillips
Jacksonville State University

Follow this and additional works at: https://digitalcommons.jsu.edu/lib_ac_covidfacreflect

Recommended Citation

This Document is brought to you for free and open access by the COVID-19 Archive at JSU Digital Commons. It has been accepted for inclusion in COVID-19 Faculty Reflections by an authorized administrator of JSU Digital Commons. For more information, please contact digitalcommons@jsu.edu.
Spring 2020 | COVID-19 Reflection

Name: Karen Phillips  
Faculty Rank: Instructor  
Department: Social Work  
School: Human Services and Social Sciences

The world is a far different place since March 19, 2020. I am extremely grateful that I had the opportunity to attend the 5 Faculty Commons sessions, as I realize many who may have planned throughout the semester were unable to do so. Overall, after reflecting on the overall theme of the sessions, Student Engagement, I was validated in the way I interact with my students. I prefer in-class teaching to online teaching, although I realize for students online teaching is preferred. It is much more convenient and accessible to today’s students who balance education, family, work, and other life responsibilities. I am also grateful to have had exposure, albeit limited, to technologies that encourage and continue established student connections. While I may have only initially viewed some Faculty Commons sessions as good information to know, today I strongly consider and even attempt to implement them.

An observation I have operationalized during the COVID-19 online teaching experience is how much I relied on my students’ facial expressions to check for interest, understanding, approval, and other emotions while in the classroom. I now regularly use Google Teams, and struggle when my students’ faces don’t “appear” on the screen. I do like the Google Teams ability to connect many students at one time. I still have much to learn, and what better way than being forced into a new situation?

The majority of my teaching assignments are practice driven. The courses I teach are never offered online because of the need to learn real life interactive skills. Because of this, I find it very difficult to deliver the same level of instruction online. I think future Faculty Commons sessions that instruct the most “real life” real time strategies would be very helpful to me.