

Scholarship of Teaching and Learning Concept for a Canada Research Chair: Engaging Learning

Malaspina University-College began its life as a teaching institution, devoted to the community and committed to high quality instruction, and despite its designation as a research university it has retained this attention to student learning as a fundamental aspect of its identity. For this reason, and many others, Malaspina University-College has become one of the leaders in an international movement to expand the definitions of research and recognize the study of teaching and learning as a valuable and valued scholarly pursuit. As institutions throughout Canada and around the world embrace what has come to be known as the scholarship of teaching and learning, Malaspina University-College remains a leader in this movement, exploring and examining approaches to effective teaching and learning, creating and reflecting on scholarly ideas about mind and learning which form the bedrock for better teaching and improved student learning. And as a leader, Malaspina University-College is poised to support a Canada Research Chair focusing on the concept of *engaging learning*. This Canada Research Chair would mentor faculty who are examining their own teaching practice in relation to effectiveness of student learning, create cross-community networks to explore common ideas and questions of effective learning, identify key problems and issues in high education, and establish a research plan to advance the scholarly study of student learning as the foundational activity of the Malaspina University-College.

Responsibilities will include four distinct yet overlapping categories. First, the Chair will continue to engage in disciplinary and more broadly-defined higher education scholarship of teaching and learning, while continuing some disciplinary teaching. Second, the Chair will encourage and facilitate the work of Malaspina faculty, administration, and students as they engage in, understand, and develop their own scholarship of teaching and learning inquiry projects; this might include facilitating the design and critique of collaborative inquiries into teaching and learning, or the trans-disciplinary development and implementation of diverse methodological options across campus and beyond. The third role of the Malaspina Research Chair will be as an educational catalyst, working to promote, share, and make public emerging scholarly work designed to enhance and improve teaching and learning. Fourth, the Chair will serve as the Malaspina representative to provincial, national and international organizations that foster the scholarship of teaching and learning, including the Canadian Society for Teaching and Learning in Higher Education (STLHE), the Council for Higher Education Research and Development (CHERD), the Professional and Organizational Development Network (POD), the Carnegie Foundation for the Advancement of Teaching and its Carnegie Academy for the Scholarship of Teaching and Learning (CASTL), and the International Society for the Scholarship of Teaching and Learning (ISSOTL).

Additional responsibilities and activities would also spring from the Chair's own expertise and experience, and might involve disciplinary and interdisciplinary collaborations, national and international initiatives, and local connections to the community. The impact of this Canada Research Chair would be significant at many levels, including as a rallying point for scholarly investigation of teaching and learning at

Malaspina University-College, as a connection point for local institutions, as a dissemination point for broader national change, and as a visible commitment to students and student learning in higher education.