Building Community and Establishing Relationships with Our Students

Dr. Aeron Haynie
Executive Director, Center for Teaching and Learning
Associate Professor of English
Center for Teaching & Learning:

CAPS
- STEM tutoring
- Writing and Language Center
- Learning Strategies/Supplemental Instruction
- Online tutoring
- Graduate Resource Center

Center for Teaching Excellence

Center for Digital Learning (formerly NMEL)

Writing Across the Curriculum
“Relationships are central to a successful college experience. They are the necessary precondition, the daily motivator, and the most valuable outcome. Therefore, specific human beings matter.”
Creating community with students

Teach *the students* not the content

Start where they are (misconceptions, prior learning): what do students bring to class?

Encourage metacognition

Motivation: relevance and “self-transcendent purpose”
• “Long-term, significant learning gains are produced neither by merely telling students information nor by giving them the right books to read. Helping students learn requires us to create the conditions in which students can revise their previous understandings.”

   Gooblar, *The Missing Course*
Students who articulated their goals (short term and long term), anticipating setbacks and imagining their future, performed better in college.

Schippers and Peterson, reported in *The Writing Assignment That Changes Lives*, NPR
We define a “purpose for learning” as a goal that is motivated both by an opportunity to benefit the self and by the potential to have some effect on or connection to the world beyond the self (Yeager & Bundick, 2009; Yeager et al., 2012).
How does this happen when advising students?

- **Teach the students** not the content
- Start where they are (misconceptions, prior learning): what do students bring to class?
- Encourage metacognition: understanding how to learn
- Motivation: relevance and “self-transcendent purpose”
What are 5 questions to ask students to help form a positive relationship?
Self-care

Students sleep, nutrition, mental health, etc. impacts their learning

Our self-care matters also impacts our ability to be present and impactful for students!
What are 3 things you want faculty to know about our students?