

Lunch and Learn 9/27/23: Creating a supportive classroom climate for all students

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Key takeaways:

Creating a supportive classroom doesn't require a full course overhaul.

1. Establish and support a class climate that fosters belonging for all students. Examples: Build instructor-student rapport by making a point to learn student names and how to pronounce them. Build peer-to-peer rapport by encouraging them to work in pairs or groups.
2. Set explicit student expectations. Examples: share or explain grading rubrics. Provide examples of exemplary work.
3. Select a wide variety of course content. Examples: choose content by authors of different background. Consider if some perspectives are underrepresented or absent.
4. Design all course elements for accessibility. Example: Provide students multiple ways to engage with course materials and to demonstrate what they have learned.
5. Reflect on your beliefs about teaching to maximize self-awareness and commitment to a supportive environment. Example: Take an honest inventory of your own conscious and unconscious biases.