



First-Year Student Success Initiative: Faculty Support/Development Working Group

March 15, 2019

Run Time : 00:01:16

<https://youtu.be/8i-3uLS7ehc>

Natasha Speer, associate professor of mathematics education discusses the goals of the faculty support and development working group that is part of the First-Year Student Success Initiative at UMaine.

[background music]

Natasha Speer: Our charge is to figure out what are the supports that faculty around campus would need in order to implement strategies to improve student success.

There are lots of things that are known from research on the teaching and learning of undergraduates. We're trying to learn from that research, as well as learn what is going on locally on our campus in courses that our first-year students are in.

Then figure out ways that we can learn from each other. Support faculty, as well as graduate students who are teaching these classes, to implement some things that are known to be effective. We also need to figure out what the supports are on campus that are needed, like the Center for Innovation in Teaching and Learning, to help those faculty learn how to do those things.

The wisdom is that you teach the way you were taught. For some faculty who are interested, we want to support them changing how they've been teaching or how they themselves were taught.

I was drawn to this because it's what I think about all the time anyway. I wanted to learn more about what is going on on our campus already and figure out ways to strengthen that even further to reach more faculty and graduate students.

The University of Maine in Orono is the flagship campus of the University of Maine System, where efforts toward racial equity are ongoing, as is the commitment to facing a complicated and not always just institutional history. The University recognizes that it is located on Marsh Island in the homeland of the Penobscot nation, where issues of water and its territorial rights, and encroachment upon sacred sites, are ongoing. Penobscot homeland is connected to the other Wabanaki Tribal Nations — the Passamaquoddy, Maliseet, and Micmac — through kinship, alliances, and diplomacy. The university also recognizes that the Penobscot Nation and the other Wabanaki Tribal Nations are distinct, sovereign, legal and political entities with their own powers of self-governance and self-determination.