

**Academic Senate
Faculty Teaching and Learning Center
Brain Based Learning Institute
Long Beach City College**

The Brain Based Learning Institute is the premier activity of the Faculty Teaching and Learning Center. It is a faculty-lead course which examines how the brain learns and explores how this knowledge can be extended into the classroom to enhance student learning. It is designed as a structured, ongoing series of 2 learning modules based on the theoretical and practical applications of learning theory in pedagogy. The Institute occurs in a graduate seminar format in which facilitators lead discussions to which participants contribute. Each module consists of eight meetings for a total of sixteen hours of contact time and sixteen hours of outside preparation.

This course is designed to show the connection between how the brain functions and effective teaching/learning strategies. The class promotes innovation in instruction, helps instructors create an emotionally supportive learning environment for students, and promotes student engagement in the learning process. Participants learn to incorporate non-lecture educational approaches to enhance the staying power of learned material. In keeping with this model, the course is meant to be highly interactive.

The current book being used is How the Brain Learns by David Sousa. Each class has multiple interactive activities, to model what should be done in the classroom. The class is two hours on a Friday afternoon and includes new faculty, full and part-time faculty and administrators. This year the class had a waiting list after the maximum 30 students were accepted into the class. The class is team taught by two Long Beach City College faculty from the math and psychology departments. There are two modules to the program; each module is 1 semester in length.

- Module One of the institute was offered in the Fall 2010 and 2011. This Module focused on the introduction of the philosophy and definitions that inform pedagogy and andragogy of post-secondary education, the importance and meaning of the student-centered classroom, and holistic learning.

Within this module, the topics of pedagogy, student-centered learning, the affective domain of learning, brain-based research, and multiple intelligences as well as emotional intelligence were introduced. The Module focused on the physical aspects of the brain and how it learns.

Specific topics included:

Lymbic, Neocortex, Dendrites, Cortisol, Serotonin
Learning Paradigms
Reward systems; the classroom as environment
Learning Theories
Learning Theories related to student motivation
Emotional Intelligence

- Module Two was offered in Spring 2011 and is planned for Spring 2012. This Module focused on the application and integration of the philosophies covered in Module One into the classroom including assessment, problem-based learning, project-based learning, and incorporating study skills into content areas.

The topics from Module Two: pedagogy, student-centered learning, the affective domain of learning, brain based research, and multiple and emotional intelligences are applied to the classroom. This Module introduced participants to hands-on activities that can be used in the classroom, including project based learning, infusion of study techniques into the curriculum and classroom based assessment. This Module connects the physical aspects of brain learning to practical applications in the classroom.

Specific topics include:
Problems Based learning
Project Based learning
Classroom Based Assessment
Infusion of Study Techniques
Prescriptive vs. Experimental curriculum
Classroom application
Blooms Taxonomy: old and new
Student Learning Outcomes: applications in the classroom
Domains: cognitive, affective, psychomotor
Service learning

Faculty Teaching and learning Center

In the Fall of 2009, Long Beach City College opened the Faculty Teaching and Learning Center (FTLC). Located in the library, this center offers a wide range of activities for ongoing professional development. The primary mission of the LBCC Faculty Teaching and Learning Center is to:

Promote the teaching excellence by providing faculty with opportunities and resources to enrich and enhance the teaching and learning experience toward the goal of improving student learning.

- **Empowerment:** Supporting faculty in their roles as teachers, learners, and members of the college community by offering a comprehensive and structured program of professional development activities.
- **Collaboration:** Promoting collegiality and a strong sense of college community by establishing and maintaining strong collaborative relationships between and among faculty and departments.
- **Innovation:** Generating and implementing ideas and activities that engender enthusiasm for teaching and learning and advance teaching and learning excellence.

While faculty professional development is the primary focus of the FTLC, administrators and classified staff are also invited to attend. Activities include book clubs, a Department Head Academy, college culture workshops, Professional Dialogue hours, Pedagogical Idea Exchange workshops (P.I.E.; pie and coffee were served) and teaching and learning webinars.

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