



ACUE

Student Success
Through Exceptional
Teaching

Conversations with Course Designers: Culturally Relevant Pedagogy

Beverly Bondad-Brown, PhD; Director of Academic Technology; Center for Effective Teaching and Learning; California State University, Los Angeles [00:00:15] Culturally relevant materials fit into course design just when you know who your students are and you're including readings or learning materials that are sort of representing their own lived experience.

Catherine Haras, MLIS; Executive Director; Center for Effective Teaching and Learning; California State University, Los Angeles [00:00:28] Interesting, so students should see themselves in the material.

Beverly Bondad-Brown, PhD [00:00:29] Yeah. So, thinking of more diverse authors, books or readings that are maybe outside of the canon, right? Making it so that students can, maybe you're using Latinx authors or African-American authors, you know you're just thinking a little bit outside of the box of what your materials are that you're using in the course.

Catherine Haras, MLIS [00:00:47] I like that. You also said something really interesting about knowing who your students are. So, it's really hard to create a culturally relevant experience if you don't know who your students are.

Beverly Bondad-Brown, PhD [00:00:58] But doing just an introductory student survey or an initial discussion forum, right where you get to know your students, that's where they can share that experience their prior knowledge, you know, their interests.

Catherine Haras, MLIS [00:01:10] I'm thinking about a mechanical engineer who had this amazing course, and he was discussing force in the course, and he said that he was using sports. So, what he-

Beverly Bondad-Brown, PhD [00:01:23] Golf.

Catherine Haras, MLIS [00:01:24] He was using golf.

Beverly Bondad-Brown, PhD [00:01:25] And students didn't get it.

Catherine Haras, MLIS [00:01:26] And students didn't get golf. Yeah, so they didn't get golf. They didn't get tennis. So, we finally asked them, what sports do you play? And it was number one, was soccer. And then it was baseball or basketball, and then it was soccer and changed all of his examples.

Beverly Bondad-Brown, PhD [00:01:40] Yeah, great way to make it culturally relevant for students, right?

Catherine Haras, MLIS [00:01:45] So you have to know something about them, as you say. Yeah, those knowledge surveys are really helpful.