Building Synergy for Critical Thinking:
Harnessing the Power of We for an Effective QEP

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- Bonnie Jones, AVP Institutional Research and Effectiveness

Key to the color dots:
- **Green**: Pre SACS site visit
- **Blue**: Years 1–2 of implementation
- **Red**: Years 3–5 of implementation
- **Gold**: 5-year review or beyond

Please sit among attendees with dots of different colors.

Session Outline

• Intro to USF Sarasota-Manatee and its QEP
• Rounds of small group → whole group discussions
  - Faculty Development
  - Curricular Integration and Implementation
  - Assessment

Synergy - /ˈsɪnərjɪ/

The interaction or cooperation of two or more organizations . . . to produce a combined effect greater than the sum of their separate effects.

- Oxford American Dictionary, 2005, p. 17

Networking

Background

- Public state university located in Sarasota, Florida
- Regional campus of USF System
- Separately accredited by SACSCOC in 2011
- 2,038 Fall 2015 Student Headcount
- 30 + bachelor’s, master’s, and certificate programs in Arts & Sciences, Business, Education, & Hospitality
- 81 full-time faculty; 86% with terminal degree
- 12:1 student/faculty ratio
- $25 million budget
**Broad Participation**

- Faculty
- Community
- Critical Thinking
- Staff
- Students

**CT Definition**

"Critical thinking is the intellectually disciplined process of actively and skillfully conceptualizing, applying, analyzing, synthesizing, and/or evaluating information gathered from, or generated by, observation, experience, reflection, reasoning, or communication, as a guide to belief and action." - (Elder & Paul, 2012)

**CT Commitments**

**INCREDI-BULL CRITICAL THINKING COMMITMENTS**
- We Will...
  1. Formulate vital questions and problems clearly
  2. Gather and assess relevant information
  3. Identify assumptions, alternatives, and implications
  4. Develop well-reasoned conclusions and solutions
  5. Communicate reasoning effectively

**Critical Thinking I.S.**

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<th>INCREDI-BULL CRITICAL THINKING I.S. (INTELLECTUAL STANDARDS):</th>
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**Conceptual Framework**
Faculty Development Plan:

- Critical Thinking (CT) workshops
- LibGuide: Online repository of research & resources
- Teach and Greet focused on CT pedagogy
- Online training modules
- Unit-based faculty development
- Incredi-Bull Faculty present their courses
- Incredi-Bull Faculty Leaders mentor others

Small groups:
Discuss your ideas and experiences related to developing faculty expertise in Critical Thinking.

Curricular Integration & Implementation Plan:

- CT Orientation for FTIC and transfer students
- Incredi-Bull critical thinking website/app
- LibGuide for students
- Lower level — integration into foundations for success courses
- Upper level:
  - Commitments and Intellectual Standards integration
  - Capstone courses
- Incredi-Bull courses
-Incredi-Bull faculty leaders’ projects

Small groups: Discuss your ideas and experiences related to Curricular Integration and Implementation.
Plan Elements:
• Faculty-developed CT Commitments Rubric
  – 4-point scale
  – Agreed-upon definitions for “meets expectations” that include the CT Intellectual Standards
  – Faculty Workshop in August to train and calibrate
  – Pilot in Fall Semester 2015
• Standardized instruments
  – Watson-Glaser
  – ETS Proficiency Profile

Small groups: Discuss your ideas and experiences related to Critical Thinking Assessment.

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