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2012 School of Chemistry and Chemical Engineering Academic Lectures - No. 32

The Introduction of Center for Teaching and Learning of IUPUI and PLTL Model of Teaching

Speaker: Pratibha Varma-Nelson, Professor of Chemistry and Executive Director of the Center for Teaching and Learning (CTL) at Indiana University-Purdue University Indianapolis (IUPUI)

Chair: Prof. Chao Hui

Time: Thursday, October 25, 15:00

Venue: A304, Fulan Academic Center, Fengsheng Hall, South Campus, SYSU

Abstract:

PLTL: A student-faculty partnership for transforming the learning environment.

Peer-Led Team Learning (PLTL) provides students with opportunities for intellectual and personal development as well as a restructuring of their content knowledge. This approach preserves the lecture and introduces a new structure, a weekly two-hour workshop where students interact to solve problems under the guidance of a trained peer leader. Each weekly PLTL workshop centers on carefully constructed problems and activities, selected by the instructor in order to address common misconceptions and develop conceptual understanding. This presentation will provide an overview of the Peer-led Team Learning (PLTL) model of teaching. It will also introduce the theoretical and practical elements of the model and describe how technology can be used to promote cyber learning through PLTL. Cyber PLTL (cPLTL) is an online, synchronous, collaborative environment for conducting PLTL workshops. Technology involved and the effectiveness of cPLTL in duplicating the proven benefits of the traditional (face-to-face) PLTL method will be described and preliminary results will be presented. Training of students and peer leaders to work effectively in PLTL workshops will be discussed as well. This work is supported by the National Science Foundation, the Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation, and the William and Flora Hewlett Foundation.

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