Development of a Teaching and Learning Community
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What
The Herman Ostrow School of Dentistry of USC proposes an innovative community of practice (CoP). The aspiration of this teaching and learning community is to have faculty from all dental disciplines meet regularly with the goal of being more effective teachers. This project aims to impact teaching practices of participants and promote new teaching methods, especially for those who have not had formal pedagogical training.

Why
• CODA standard 3-2 states that dental schools must have an ongoing faculty development process.
• This requirement is essential for improving teaching and learning, enhancing job satisfaction, and maintaining the vitality of academic dentistry.
• Most faculty have content expertise but no teaching expertise.

Most Requested Topics
• Setting expectations for students
• Engaging underperforming students
• Remediation of underperforming students

How
• A survey was emailed to faculty to determine topics of interest and availability.
• Speakers will be scheduled to cover the chosen topics.
• Meetings will be scheduled once a month on different days to accommodate faculty schedules.
• Presentations will take place during lunch with lunch provided for attendees.
• An organization was created in Blackboard dedicated to this teaching and learning community.

Who
• The Associate Dean for Academic Affairs was consulted for approval and support.
• Speakers will be selected from faculty at USC and other academic institutions.
• Instructional designers are helping with the course design and content.

Outcome Measurement
• Community of Practice meeting attendance
• Student course evaluations
• Faculty satisfaction survey