

COUNCIL ON TEACHING
Follow-Up Report for
Teaching in Higher Education Conference Award

Name: Darren Hoffmann

Department/Unit: Anatomy and Cell Biology

Conference Attended: POD Conference (POD Network in Higher Education)

Date of Conference: 11/17/2022-11/19/2022

Award Amount: \$1500.00

Briefly summarize how your attendance at the conference enhanced your professional development and allowed you to gain a better understanding of teaching in your discipline or trends in higher education in general.

I learned a lot of new strategies for engagement in learning communities centered around improving quality teaching practices. In particular, a session on “high burnout, low turnout” gave great information on how to adapt to our post-pandemic reality of educational development work. Learned strategies included: creating structures that incentivize ongoing participation, providing different levels of engagement, portfolio development/badging, podcast-centered discussions were all recommended by multiple presenters as current best practices. I also received great advice on scheduling to not do negotiated schedules: just commit to the time that works best for you and the majority of the group and offer flexibility in format. I also learned about ways to make virtual and HyFlex modalities work in spite of challenges.

How have you been able to share what you learned about teaching with your department, the University of Iowa, and/or beyond?

I lead several ongoing learning communities (university-wide) for grad and post-doc development and I have already incorporated these strategies in my leadership of those groups locally. I’ve also been able to share these strategies with faculty in my department who are working in virtual/hybrid environments with little experience. Also, as the chair of the Cross-Network Operations Group in the Center for the Integration of Research, Teaching, and Learning (CIRTL), a national organization of graduate student and post-doc developers, I have been able to encourage adoption of these strategies in all of our cross-network programs which are all in the virtual space.