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Transformation Information Issue 2

Office of Academic Affairs

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Commissioner Virginia Barry Talks about PSU Transformation

Commissioner for the New Hampshire Department of Education Virginia Barry kicked off the screening of “[Most Likely to Succeed](#)” with important remarks about Plymouth State and our transformation. She noted how students today will hold approximately 10 jobs in their lifetime so they need to be educated and prepared to transition and succeed.

She noted that we are positioning ourselves to teach students to collaborate, communicate, and think as problem solvers and that we will become a first-choice institution.



Save the dates:

Jan. 18 + 19 - January Jamboree 2.0

These two days will provide an opportunity for faculty and staff to re-energize and re-engage before the start of the spring semester. Topics will include integrated clusters, areas of professional development, and technology.

Feb. 7 - Connections Partnership Fair

This Fair, a joint project of the CBCP and Career Services, will connect external partners with PSU faculty and students to imagine ways we might work together. Designed as a networking event, the goal is to develop connections, explore possibilities, and celebrate successes. The event will

Read our [cluster](#) updates:

[Arts & Technologies](#)

[Education, Democracy & Social Change](#)

[Exploration & Discovery](#)

[Health & Human Enrichment](#)

[Innovation & Entrepreneurship](#)

[Justice & Security](#)

showcase current projects while planting the seeds for new ideas and relationships. Open to faculty, staff, and students.

[Tourism, Environment & Sustainable Development](#)

Four Things Faculty Can Do Starting Today

During the Academic Deans' Listening Session, faculty asked for some ways to get started working with integrated clusters. Below are four ideas:

1. Shape your spring courses with your cluster theme in mind.
2. Decide if your program/discipline is in the right cluster.
3. Think about your spring courses. How can you engage your students with another discipline or partner?
4. Gather more ideas at the Connections Partnership Fair Feb. 7.

Interested but don't know where to start? Reach out to Professors [Pam Anneser](#), [Roxanna Wright](#), or [Cynthia Robinson](#) who have been doing this work. They are glad to talk with you about getting started integrating cluster-like activities into your classroom.



INTEGRATED CLUSTERS

start
today.

Four Things Staff Can Do Starting Today

Here are some thoughts about how staff can get involved in clusters:

1. Come up with your talking points (see last article).
2. Answer questions when you can and ask clarifying questions.
3. Periodically visit and read the [integrated clusters website](#) to see what's happening.
4. Talk with your manager about attending cluster meetings and getting involved in projects.



"The exhibit fulfilled a key role in illustrating one sample for cluster thinking. I had several conversations with alums, faculty, and community members who were helped by hearing about the different parts of the project...many responding, 'Oh! Now I get it! This makes sense.'"

- Cynthia Robinson

Project Profile: Resilience

The Resilience: An Interdisciplinary Exploration project held its culminating event Dec. 6th. The final stage of the exhibit

included all student work that has been happening this semester. The project included:

- 29 student paintings and their accompanying painted animations playing on 4 screens
- 4 international student video interviews
- 5 essays on the relationship between resilience and sustainability
- 6 student computer animations
- Public participation kiosk to identify vulnerable sites in the Plymouth region, and a cumulative view of what has been flagged
- 30 graphic design collage works with accompanying "tgif" animations of their process
- 39 essays on resilience, bound in a book
- 1 large wall collage made by 14 Student Design Company students
- Environmental myths/facts projects
- 3 painted animation works by New York City artist Jason Mitcham
- Exhibit educational materials
- Exhibit design and promotional materials work by Student Design Company

People came together to celebrate a collaborative effort that highlighted cross cluster thinking and inventing along with student, faculty, partner, and community participation.



Talking Points

Below are some ideas you can build upon when asked “tell me more about integrated clusters.”

Option 1:

- Our integrated clusters and open labs are going to give your son/daughter a broader learning experience.
- Yes, they will still have a major but supplemented by learning and experience from disciplines other than their own.
- People who are knowledgeable about many areas and can collaborate are needed in our fast-moving world.

Option 2:

The benefit of clusters for students is threefold:

- You get an emphasis on high-impact learning.
- It makes you more marketable in terms of understanding true collaboration and complementing the core knowledge of your own field.
- It's an opportunity to serve the community.

Quick Links

- [Integrated Clusters Page](#)
- [Calendar](#)
- [Project Information](#)
- [Guides](#)
- [Project Ideas](#)
- [Submit an Idea](#)



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