
Sustainable Change: Making STEM Education Transformations Last

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Abstract: Decades of education research have led to the development of numerous highly-effective active-learning techniques. Yet, despite widespread awareness of such techniques, they are not widely used. Worse, even when innovative pedagogies are adopted, sustainability is an issue. Thus, beyond developing new practices, there is an urgent need to increase the sustained use of already developed best practices. This talk describes one such effort, the SITAR project. SITAR is an ongoing effort, which aims to effect systemic change in university settings. To effect lasting change, we draw upon theories of organizational change to influence both culture and institutional structures. Here I describe one particular component of the project, which involves faculty working groups called Departmental Action Teams (DATs). I introduce the DAT model, provide case studies of the model in action, and finally elaborate how these principles from organizational change can be used to support other educational transformation efforts.