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Rajrani Kalra TSSA Winter 2017

Rajrani Kalra

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Your name and department: Rajrani Kalra, Dept. of Geography and Environmental Studies

Year/Quarter of your award: Winter 2017 TSSA Grant

Conference attended: Attended and Presented at the Lilly Conference on College & University Teaching at Anaheim, CA (23-26th Feb 2017).

The teaching strategy/strategies that you studied:

The overarching theme of the conference was *evidence-based teaching and learning*. The main objective was to explore, learn and apply the use of technology and how it can improve effective learning experiences. I have attended around seven Lily West teaching conferences since 2008 and have always returned with a sense of accomplishment, inspiration and motivation to use new techniques. I have never feared to explore new techniques in teaching geography. I attended several presentations like: *'creating a lifelong learning culture'*, *'seven steps of teaching and learning'*, *'decoding Disney'*, *'translating tricks into teaching strategies'*, *'learning by action through the use of technology'*, *'increasing student engagement through questions'*, *'the use of movies and music to make learning memorable'*, *'who says learning isn't fun'*, and *'the role of emotions in learning and transfer of knowledge'*. The plenary talk was very interesting and thought provoking and centered on graduation gaps: what's teaching got to do with it and becoming a skillful teacher. Thus, I returned from the conference with a sense of accomplishment and with several ideas to improve my teaching effectiveness.

How the strategy/strategies were/are being applied in your courses

I used portfolium and have been using Kahoot (since 2017) and my students love it. This is one technology application which I have used the most. I try to make learning fun and use many videos and movies too in teaching of urban, economic and human geography courses. I also now use zoom technology for teaching hybrid classes. The teaching field is so diverse not just in different disciplines but also how one teaches and especially in the digital age teaching has become more important and vital. It is indeed very crucial to be updated with the tools and techniques in teaching and learning. I have been teaching Kahoot since 28th Feb 2017 and there is no retreat. I use Kahoot for hybrid, face to face and online classes and it works great. I use for the class participation, revision of previous lectures, quiz and sometimes just for fun.

What the impact of the strategy/strategies were/are in your courses

As mentioned in an earlier question I have used technology such as Kahoots and Zoom video and it has had a positive impact in my SOTES. A few examples are provided from my courses which mentioned Zoom and Kahoot: *'Though it was a hybrid class, I did like how she utilized the Zoom Conferences during the online sections of the class'*, *'the kahoots were my favorite part about the sessions because they kept us engaged during the long lectures'*. *'Also, the films that we had to watch during class and as the discussion questions were very interesting and helped me learn more about the regions, we were studying that week'*. I am now learning new tools and techniques which could make the online and hybrid learning experience more rewarding.
