

Education Studio: Network-Building to Gain Evidence for Best Practices Through Educational Research

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Significance of the Project

Discipline-Based Educational Research (DBER) is a common term used among higher education units on university campuses. The recognition of DBER as a significant contributor to the literature base for driving best practice may promote individual unit success in teaching and learning, as well as promoting collaboration across units for diverse thinking and research design. The embracing of concepts around DBER can raise the level of excellence associated with its units, ultimately enhancing success in health sciences education and patient care.

Purpose of the Project

The purpose of this project is to create a platform to promote collaboration in educational research across units on the University of Colorado Anschutz Medical Campus (CUAMC). The platform should spark interest in research topics and compile ideas for research questions, methods for data collection, data analysis, and dissemination of evidence to improve the education mission institutionally.

Methods of the Project

In creating the CUAMC *Education Studio*, the process in developing this unique educational research network on a health sciences campus will be the focus of this Institutional Action Project (IAP). Defined success indicators include:

- Design of an *Education Studio* steering committee
- Planning and execution of *Education Studio* events
- Documented variety of campus units represented by attendees at *Education Studio* events
- Demonstration of interest in *Education Networks* under the umbrella of *Education Studio* to enable educational research collaboration
- Dissemination of evidence nationally and internationally on topics in educational research with authorship across the CUAMC
- Gain internal and/or external funding for 1) building of *Education Studio* infrastructure and 2) further development and sustainability of educational research in *Education Network* workgroups

Results to Date

Two *Education Studio* events (May 2022 and January 2023) have taken place. Themes were chosen by the *Education Studio Steering Committee*, comprised of 20 members across 7 campus units (School of Dental Medicine, School of Medicine, College of Nursing, School of Pharmacy, Office of Strategic Initiatives, the Graduate School, and School of Public Health). The 2022 event focused on Entrusted Professional Activities (EPAs) and engaged 19 attendees and 4 expert panelists. The development and initiation of an educational research project in EPAs was continued in monthly *Education Network* events. The 2023 event focused on Micro-Credentials and Digital Badging and engaged 46 attendees, a

keynote speaker, and 9 expert panelists. Following the session, 11 attendees continue to build campuswide educational research on these topics in an *Education Network* workgroup.

Discussion and Conclusions

As a process is developed in building *Education Studio* and its working *Education Networks*, interest in events and opportunities to build educational research collaboration across the CUAMC is growing. Focus on sustainability of this current campuswide initiative will be needed to achieve the IAP goal of creating an effective and accessible platform for educational research over time. Ultimately, the impact of this IAP will be to enhance best practices in evidence-based education across units at CUAMC.