

NOVEMBER '84

CONVERSATIONS UNLIMITED - Monday, Nov. 5, 1984

INTRO

Hi, everybody.

Think of formal learning and chances are what comes to mind is a classroom with a teacher up front dispensing information to a group of learners who take notes and go off to read books. But how about a class in which the teachers sit with the students and become partners in the learning process?

Today we'll take a look at just such a forum for education being carried out at the State University of New York at Stony Brook. It is called FLC for short. FLC stands for Federated Learning Communities. Dr. James McKenna is director of this unusual learning structure.

Later in the program, we'll talk with Dr. McKenna and another professor, Dr. Lee Miller, about one of FLC's most unusual facets. That would be the partnership in learning I referred to earlier. They call the teacher who is a student "the master learner."

Dr. McKenna, one of the master learners described FLC as "a way to recast the standard academic possibilities for teaching and learning." I suppose we ought to begin by trying to create a picture of an FLC study group for our listeners. Describe one, please.

INTERVIEW DR. MCKENNA: -- Review present group(s) and colloquia

-- History

-- Student experiences: grading, dropouts

~~products of classes (papers)~~

-- Faculty experiences: grading,

extra-curricular involvement, learning

-- How does SUSB campus help FLC. (Note:

~~Master learner: "FLC moves in a direction counter to typical institutional frameworks in the research university setting.")~~

MORE MORE MORE



- How could FLC concept be expanded to cover even more non-traditional areas?
- FLC on other campuses
- FLC's future

14:00 BRIDGE MUSIC UP AND UNDER

Hi. I'm Al Oickle and I'm talking with Dr. James McKenna, director of the Federated Learning Communities at the State University of New York at Stony Brook. One of the interesting aspects of FLC's unusual learning format is called "the master learner." Dr. McKenna has been a master learner. And so has Dr. Clyde Lee Miller of Stony Brook's Department of Philosophy. In fact, Dr. Miller, you are a master learner this semester.

INTERVIEW DR. MILLER AND DR. McKENNA:

-- Miller's background in FLC ("I find it hard to get away.")

-- His statement on ethics learning/teaching: "If there is any moral obstacle to learning ethics, it surely must be how institutional arrangements and typical faculty-student interchange give the lie to the professed values and ideals of autonomy and cooperation often thematic to such courses."

-- What he's learned: students' low regard for selves

--Professors learn from students

--His fears - and how that turned out

--His hopes - and how they turned out

-- Note Hill's analogy teacher/student and 3rd/1st world nations

-- Course mastery vs course survival

-- Joint support, teacher and student

-- Could this concept be expanded to classrooms?

29:00 - OUTRO

INDEPENDENCE