Educational Development (ED) in a Nutshell

Jeanette McDonald, EdD
EDC Institute, April 13-15, 2015
York University

Guiding Session Questions
- Who are educational developers?
- What is educational development?
- What’s in a name?
- How do we approach our practice?
- How did we come to be?
- Where are we going?

Who are educational developers?

Let’s “walk the line” and find out!

1. discipline/subject area focus
2. transitioned into ED from in- or outside academia
3. entry status: faculty, post-doc, grad/TA, educator, professional staff, other
4. career path: chance or choice
5. professional identity (e.g., specialized educational developer, educational researcher, curriculum, discipline)

What is educational development?

In the broadest sense, ED is ..... 

“dedicated to helping colleges and universities function effectively as teaching and learning communities.”

(Felton, Kalish, Pingree & Plank, 2007, p. 359)

What’s in a name?

Approaches to Educational Development

Individual
Organizational
Sector

(Fraser, Gosling & Sorcinelli, 2010)
How did we come to be?

• “not as a linear narrative but as a complex tapestry of developmental interventions [over time].”

Land, 2004, p. 1

Historical Highlights in Canadian ED

• 1969 – Canada’s 1st teaching centre opens – McGill University (CL&D)
• 1970 – Canadian Society for Studies in Higher Education established (CSSHE)
• 1973 – OUPID established (lead up to STLHE)
• 1974 – first effort to document pedagogical activity in HE (>13U& 65C)
• 1986 – CAUT guide to teaching dossiers (revised edition) – 3M Teaching Fellows
• 1986 – 1994 follow-up survey – new teaching/learning courses for graduates (Donald)
• 1989 – Faculty Development Committee, Association of Atlantic Universities (1964)
• 1993 – International Consortium for Educational Development established
• 1996 – International Journal for Academic Development – launched
• 2003 – EDC established under STLHE
• 2005 – Higher Educational Quality Council of Ontario (HEQCO) established
• 2008/2010 – survey of CdH teaching centre and websites + SoTL activity
• 2011 – 1st EDC Institute
• Today: EDC action groups, STLHE SIGs (SoTL, TAGSA, CSEC)

Refer to reference section for sources

PPT and Session References