

# "Teaching with Fire: (Re) Igniting the Passion for Teaching"

## An assessment of the 3rd Annual Teaching Day

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The NAU Teaching Academy and the staff of the Faculty Professional Development Program convened the Third Annual NAU Teaching Day from 11:30 a.m. to 3:00 p.m. for over 200 pre-registered participants. The visiting speaker was Dr. John Pollard, a faculty member at the University of Arizona, who talked about his work on teaching students to think within their discipline ("thinking chemically" in his case). Following his presentation, a series of round table discussions was convened, each focusing on a different topical area related to university teaching.

This event was supported by the Office of the Provost and the Faculty Professional Development Program.

#### SOME WAYS TO MAINTAIN FIRE (from surveys of participants):

"Ask questions, encourage curiosity."

"Learn new teaching strategies and talk with students about their expectations in the classroom."

"Re examine your courses EACH year."

"Periodically become a student again - remembering how it feels to be on the other side of the classroom can give you new ideas."

"Visualize students remembering important concepts from your class after graduating NAU."

"Try at least one new thing in each class each semester."

### "Fire" Prediction Today

#### Level 3: Learning

"I learned how to excite and motivate students to want to learn!"

"I learned about pre and post assessment - start with a question."

"I gained new ideas, strategies, pedagogy, resources and skills to be a better teacher."

#### Level 4: Application

To what extent were you able to identify an idea, strategy, or approach you would like to use in your teaching?  
78%

"Teaching requires a lot of work and can often be criticized in the media, oversimplified in its evaluation and valued less than research by colleagues, so knowing the university values the time we put in encourages us to study new approaches to find better ways to teach."

To what extent do you see yourself sharing an idea, strategy, or approach to a colleague or peer?  
78%

#### Level 5: Systemic Impact

"Try out new ideas and see them improve learning."

"Listen to and get to know your students and colleagues. Share ideas regarding innovative solutions to obstacles in learning."

"Reinvent the curriculum on a regular basis based on current methods of learning and current state of the discipline."

#### Level 2: Satisfaction

8.51

The average rating out of 10 points possible for the response to the question, "To what extent did the Teaching Day activities meet your goals?"

"It was very helpful to my teaching"  
"A good head start for the semester"  
"This was wonderful - best ever!"



207 Faculty, Administrators, and Staff (77 more than last year)

#### Level 1: Participation