

STEM In Person Training



Post-Training Reflection

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Please take a few minutes and reflect on the in person training you had. Please provide thoughtful responses to the following questions. Take as much space as you need. Your responses support IREX in understanding the benefit of in person trainings for all partners involved.

1. What were the highlights of the in person training with Dr. Jim Egenrieder at the Thinkabit Lab?

The in-person training in Virginia tech with Dr. Jim Egenrieder highlighted several essential points on understanding and explaining the following:

- The principles of designing an effective curriculum and reliable instructional protocols.
- The successful strategies for planning, assessment and instructional methods that ensure the success of students.
- How to build a collective professional capacity among the faculties within their university departments.
- The possibility of recruiting technology for engaging and supporting students and build an influential curriculum.
- The type assessments, and learning activities and how to develop and use them immediately.
- The eight standards of higher education curriculum rubric.

2. What specific skills or content did you learn that you will use in your own teaching?

We learned the following skills and contents:

- Using technology in teaching such as, google classroom and including video clips, images, figures to facilitate students' understanding.
- Using google docs, PPT and forms as an easy way to enhance the communication between the faculties and their students when everyone can observe the comments, suggestions and editing.
- Creating a "Indisiplinary Connection" between the course I teach and the other related sciences such as connecting of microbiology course with the industrial applications in order to expand the way of students' thinking.
- Establishment of an authentic audience, including: internal audiences, external audiences and get the benefits of students' suggestions and feedback.
- Making a connection between teaching and entrepreneurship through promoting creativity, and innovation of the students.
- Focusing on the priority topics (major topics) that will stick and be memorized by the students rather than the secondary topics.

- Building a professional development templates of the pacing guide.
- Using Project-Based Learning and Project-based Assessments as a method of functional teaching.
- Learning the possible ways of overcoming resistance to change among educators and faculties in our universities.

3. How will you use the skills and new knowledge you gained in your future work? How do you plan on implementing these skills and knowledge?

I think that we can implement and use the skills and knowledge we learned through the following:

- Holding multiple STEAM leaders education-associated workshops in all departments of Science College/ University of Diyala in order to transfer the knowledge we acquired from in-person workshops
- The possibility of establishing an effective learning centers and called it "STEM leaders education center" in the University of Diyala with the support and direct cooperation with IREX.