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## The Lerner Symposium on Student Learning: “Advances and Opportunities for Enhancing Student Learning”

10:30am – 10:50 Refreshments, Lerner Atrium

10:50 – 11:00 Welcome & Keynote Introduction  
*Bobby Gempesaw, Dean of the Lerner College*

11:00 – 11:50 Keynote Presentation: “It’s the Learning....”  
*Larry Spence, Penn State University*

Higher education today is an explosive mixture of rising expectations and entrenched traditions. We cannot meet those expectations unless we move from the transmission model of telling and asking to an experimental model of designing interactions that promote learning. We can do that if professors change their goals from great teaching to developing great learners. That is what we tried to do at Penn State’s new College of Information Sciences and Technology. The results show that it is possible to make classrooms more challenging for students and more rewarding for instructors.<sup>1</sup>

12:00noon – 1:00 Lunch, Lerner Atrium

1:00pm – 1:50 Session 1: Improving Learning through Writing  
*Stephen A. Bernhardt, Kirkpatrick Chair in Writing and Chair,  
Department of English*

This workshop/discussion will review effective ways to integrate writing into courses, with a focus on fostering content learning, developing communication skills useful in professional contexts, and keeping professors’ time commitments reasonable. He will stress both short, informal writing-to-learn as well as more formal, team-based or client-based projects. He will give some attention to how writing figures into outcomes assessment and how classroom technologies can encourage good student communication skills.

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<sup>1</sup> See <http://pbl.ist.psu.edu> for a description of IST’s learning initiatives.

2:00 – 2:50

Session 2: Emerging Technologies  
*Jeff Whisler, The Present*

New technologies emerge constantly. Deciding which ones to use to increase student learning is difficult. Incorporating them into your curriculum is even more difficult and wrought with possible pitfalls. This session will describe several emerging technologies, giving examples and recommended practices for each.

3:00 - 3:15pm

Refreshments, Lerner Atrium

3:15 – 3:45

Session 3: Approaches to Student-Centered Learning  
*George Watson, Senior Associate Dean of Arts & Sciences*  
*Mark A. Serva, Assistant Professor of MIS, Lerner College*

Many people learn more deeply when they have the opportunity to teach it to others. This jump in understanding occurs from integrating the information with what is known, organizing it in a meaningful way, and explaining it to others. In student-centered learning, faculty members serve as facilitators and mentors to guide the discovery learning process. Case-based and problem-based learning will be highlight in this session.

3:45 – 4:30

Session 4: Panel Discussion with Lerner Faculty  
*John Wragge, Associate Professor of Accounting & MIS*  
*Ajay Manrai, Professor of Marketing*  
*Larry Spence, Learning Consultant, Penn State University*  
*Chris Kydd, Associate Professor of Operations Management*

The panel will review the topics covered in the symposium and will look to the future. What can the College do to increase opportunities for sharing teaching ideas among the faculty? How can the college encourage more innovative teaching? What resources should the college provide to enhance student learning?

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Many thanks to Steve Bernhardt, Donna Brenchley, Janet DeVry, Jeff Gillespie, Paul Hyde, Sandy McVey, Nina Warren, George Watson, and Jeff Whisler for their assistance in putting together this symposium.