

From Experiential Learning to Career Readiness

From the time students begin their college search process, they hear how important it is to be involved on campus. Joining a student organization, getting an on-campus job, finding a research opportunity, anything activity outside the classroom to build their resume and get ready for whatever is next for them after graduation. And as a University of Arizona staff member, you likely work with one of those experiences in some way, whether you supervise a student team or oversee a program on campus. We understand these high-impact experiences as pathways for students to gain hands-on experience as they prepare for their careers. What we also know, however, is that students report higher levels of skill development in themselves than the employers they work for do. This session will help you ensure that the students you work with are not only gaining the transferable skills we know employers are looking for, but that they are also able to articulate those skills on their resume, in their online profiles, or during an interview. Build the Skill is truly a meet-students-where-they-are initiative. Build the Skill creates both online and in-person opportunities for students to identify and apply transferable skills in their on-campus experiences, reflecting on their competencies along the way. Finding the time to incorporate meaningful reflection and professional development opportunities into your programs can be challenging, both in terms of finding the time to prepare an offering and knowing what information to include. By using examples from the Build the Skill model, or formally incorporating Build the Skill into your experience, you'll be able to facilitate transferable skill development for your students. The students you work with will become better communicators, collaborators, and leaders in the work they are doing across campus and into their careers.

Mary Cantor

Mary Cantor is Program Manager for Transferable Skills and Leadership Competencies with Student Engagement and Career Development. Her favorite part of her job is helping student leaders uncover their abilities to lead and make a difference. Outside of work, she loves running on The Loop, reading books, or spending time with her husband and rescue critters (two cats and one dog!).

