SEDA Spring Conference 2023

Session title: What do educational developers *really* do?

Session type: Keynote

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Session summary: Educational developers, and educational development, have come of age - just like SEDA celebrating its 30th birthday this year. In the early days peers were elevated to coaches and mentors to develop the teaching skills of others. Equally commonplace and more contemporary activities for educational development work now includes leading and contributing to whole institutional curriculum change and to student success initiatives. In all their work, educational developers support individuals, teams, senior leaders and one another to effect positive change that will improve teaching, assessment and the educational offer. In varied ways they help fulfil the aspiration that all students, and the staff that teach and support them, are encouraged, supported and successful in achieving their goals. In this presentation I reflect on the varied ways, past and present, that educational developers work – what are they *really* doing? And I will look ahead and speculate on the educational development role in the future - what achievements and practices of educational developers in the ever-evolving landscape of higher education will we be celebrating at SEDA's 40th birthday?