### Piloting A Personalized Learning Model for Chemical Engineering Graduate Education – Lessons Learned from Creating a Chemical Engineering Body of Knowledge

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Susan Fullerton is an Associate Professor, Bicentennial Board of Visitors Faculty Fellow, and Vice Chair for Graduate Education in the Department of Chemical and Petroleum Engineering at the University of Pittsburgh. She earned her Ph.D. in Chemical Engineering at Penn State in 2009, and joined the Department of Electrical Engineering at the University of Notre Dame as a Research Assistant Professor. In 2015 she established the Nanoionics and Electronics Lab at Pitt as an Assistant Professor, and was promoted to Associate Professor with tenure in 2020. Fullerton's work has been recognized by an NSF CAREER award, an Alfred P. Sloan Fellowship, a Marion Milligan Mason award for women in the chemical sciences from AAAS, and a Ralph E. Powe Jr. Faculty Award from ORAU. For her teaching, Fullerton was awarded the 2018 James Pommersheim Award for Excellence in Teaching in Chemical Engineering at Pitt. For more information: http://fullertonlab.pitt.edu/



### **Piloting A Personalized Learning Model for Chemical Engineering Graduate Education** –

### Lessons Learned from Creating a Chemical Engineering Body of Knowledge

April Dukes | Mary Besterfield-Sacre | Susan Fullerton | Goetz Veser



of Engineering

University of Pittsburgh Swanson School of Engineering

## **Overview**

- Need for innovation in graduate STEM education
- Personalized Learning Model
  - Developing the Body of Knowledge
  - Concept Mapping of Learning Objectives
  - Modularization of Core Courses
- The New Curriculum
- Implications and Takeaways
- Next steps



https://pittnews.com/article/159247/top-stories/swanson-engineers-a-path-for-fall-semester/#modal-photo



# **Need for Innovation in Graduate Education and STEM Training**

- Current graduate STEM education does not fully address the diverse needs of graduate students, especially at a time when cultivating diverse talent is crucial.
  - Primarily designed to produce research results and publications
  - Essential skills like communication, teamwork in diverse settings, mentoring, networking, and leadership are needed in the workforce

• To remain relevant in the evolving landscape of science, engineering, and society, graduate STEM education requires significant cultural transformation.



National Academies of Sciences, Engineering, and Medicine. 2018. Graduate STEM Education for the 21st Century. Washington, DC: The National Academies Press. https://doi.org/10.17226/25038.

# **Need for Innovation in Graduate Education and STEM Training**

 Our research project explores the impact of Personalized Learning Models (PLM) on the development and training of CHE graduate students.

- Customized Learning Paths
- Individual Development Paths
- Modular Coursework

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Student-Centered Approach

Continuous Assessment and Feedback

### **Overall Research Goals**

### • Goal 1:

 Create a personalized learning model (PLM) for graduate STEM education that is inclusive and incorporates professional training

### • Goal 2:

 Generate the knowledge and examine the potential to extend the PLM from one STEM context to another



#### A Personalized Learning Model (PLM) for STEM Graduate Education



# **Diversity, Inclusivity, and our PLM**

- IDPs are a student-centered tool for academic and career development planning. (*Instructional Goals*)
- Increased choice in courses and professional development stream activities respects diverse interests and career paths. (*Task Environment*)
- Scaffolding of instruction supports students who have different starting points in their academic preparation, background, and experience.
- Graduate student feedback is collected and utilized to support the program in the assessment, reflection, and evaluation.

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## **Body of Knowledge**



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### **Demographic Data – Subject Matter Experts**

### Type of organization

|--|

OP	TION	FREQUENCY	%
•	Junior Advisory Board	8	33.33 %
	Technical Advisory Board	7	<b>29.17</b> %
•	Faculty Member	6	25.00 %
	Educational Advisory Board	2	8.33 %
	Other	1	4.17 %
	Total	24	

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OPTION	FREQUENCY		%	
Academia	11	45.83	%	
For Profit	10	41.67	%	
Non-Governmental Organization	1	4.17	%	
Governmental Organization	1	4.17	%	
Other	1	4.17	%	
Total	24			

### Job focus

OP	TION	FREQUENCY	%
	Client Service	1	3.13 %
	Administration	2	6.25 %
	Operations	7	21.88 %
	Research and Development	16	50.00 %
	Other	6	18.75 %
	Total	32	

#### **Disciplinary background**

OPTION	FREQUENCY	%
Chemical engineering	21	84.00 %
Chemistry	1	4.00 %
Other engineering	2	8.00 %
Other	1	4.00 %
Total	25	

#### **Terminal degree**

OP	TION	FREQUENCY	%
	BS/BA	6	25.00 %
	MS	5	20.83 %
	PhD	13	54.17 %
•	Other Professional Degree	0	0.00 %
	Total	24	

## **Body of Knowledge Process**

- Collected and refined learning objectives (LOs) for five graduate chemical engineering courses covering six topics:
  - Thermodynamics, Kinetics and Reactor Design, Transport Phenomena, Mathematical Methods, Ethics, and Safety
- These updated LOs were inputted into GroupWisdom<sup>™</sup>.
- Our subject matter experts (SMEs) read through the LOs and individually added LOs in the brainstorming phase.





#### 96 statements collected

More info >

FINISH

📿 Refresh list

#### FOCUS PROMPT :

Please review the list of learning outcomes across the six topics of graduate chemical engineering education: Thermodynamics, Kinetics and Reactor Design, Transport Phenomena, Mathematical Methods, Ethics, and Safety. Add any additional learning outcomes that you feel are not represented.

#### Add Ideas

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Type to add an idea

#### ADD STATEMENT

#### Collected statements:

Q Search

Transport: Write out the constitutive equations for momentum, thermal energy and mass transport. Be able t o explain each term.

Transport: Split PDEs into two or more ODEs and solve via separation of variables

Transport: Specify and apply boundary conditions

Transport: Solve PDEs and visualize numerical results in Matlab

Transport: Solve and physically interpret simple steady-state conduction, diffusion, and fluid flow problems in rectangular, cylindrical, and spherical geometries, with and without zero-order and first-order generation/los s using shell (i.e., integral) balances.

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- These updated LOs were inputted into GroupWisdom<sup>™</sup>.
- Our subject matter experts (SMEs) read through the LOs and individually added LOs in the brainstorming phase.
- Most added LOs were non-curricular skills or specialized topics.
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sburgh.

## **Body of Knowledge Process**

 The SMEs individually grouped the curricular LOs for these six topics into different categories: *undergraduate, graduate, specialized, and unknown*.





#### Cards

- Kinetics/ReactorDesign: Differentiate between molecular,
   Knudsen, and single-file
   diffusion regimes when given a set of unlabeled cartoon
- set of unlabeled schematics less
- 43
- Math Methods: Solve nonlinear first order ODEs by exact differentials.
- 95 Ethics: Compare and contrast basic ethical theories (e.g. moral absolutism vs. relativism, utilitarianism, virtue ethics) less
- 70
- Math Methods: Apply Bessel function to solve various chemical engineering problems
- Transport: Develop a model for a defined chemical engineering transport problem involving at least two modes of transport that can be solved using the base package of COMSOL.
   Transport models can include steady-state, unsteady transport processes, irregular

### ¶€ c

0 of 96 statements sorted

#### FOCUS PROMPT:

Please review the list of learning outcomes across the six topics of graduate chemical engineering education: Thermodynamics, Kinetics and Reactor Design, Transport Phenomena, Mathematical Methods, Ethics, and Safety. Add any additional learning outcomes that you feel are not represented.

Drag and drop cards to create piles



FINISH

More info >

# **Body of Knowledge Process**

 The SMEs individually grouped the curricular LOs for these six topics into three levels: *undergraduate, graduate, specialized, and unknown*.

 The SMEs then individually rated the importance of each LO based on their own experiences within their career/jobs.





2 Transport: Reason how developing (unsteady) or developed (steady state) temperature or concentration profiles interact with developing or developed velocity profiles



# **Body of Knowledge Process**

- The SMEs individually grouped the curricular LOs for these six topics into three levels: *undergraduate, graduate, specialized, and unknown*.
- The SMEs then individually rated the importance of each LO based on their own experiences within their career/jobs.
- The researchers then analyzed grouping similarities between all SMEs.



# **Analysis**

### **Similarity Matrix**

Frequency of how many times LOs were sorted together



TOTAL square similarity matrix across *5* participants

Kane, M. & W. Trochim, Concept Mapping for Planning and Evaluation, page 91

2

0

Statements

000

0 0

0 0

00



# **Analysis**

### Multidimensional scaling

Outcomes frequently sorted closer together are plotted together, and outcomes frequently sorted differently are plotted further from each other.

Result is an X, Y map of the points

Stress value (akin to reliability) is low indicating that the similarity matrix is well represented in two dimensions.





# **Analysis**

### **Hierarchical Cluster Analysis**

Groups outcomes on the point map into clusters that aggregate to reflect similar concepts

Takes the XY coordinate matrix and produces a tree structure of all cluster solutions from one giant cluster to multiple clusters that don't overlap.



Kane, M. & W. Trochim, *Concept Mapping for Planning and Evaluation*, page 100







### How do we get from the cluster solution to learning objectives for undergraduate, graduate, and specialized modules?



### Organized Clusters by Module Level (e.g., Undergrad)

Charter				
Quin 2				
Quer 1				
Outer2				
Plath Methods	Isanoport	Thermo	Kineties	Saletplütes
Math Methods: Philoples and applications of 17 probability, statistics, analytics, and machine learning/4	45 Transport Performivector and remoti operations	Thereor Read quaritatively and interpret to or and free reporter phase diagrams in minutes inclus polds, liquids, gases, compoundabless, and origin pheromena	Kneets Reacto Design: Diferentiate between 302 indecular, Knodsen, and single-file diffusion regimes when given a set of unlabeled cancers othermatics	8 Salary, Recognize personal, process, 8 community palwy
Math Methods: Define line as regression using/east 85 squares and scorpare the results of line as regression when applied to continuous versus categorical data	Transport: Given a meto-strain-relationship. 47 casegoto-the behavior at Newtonian or nor- Newtonian	ets Therenz: Computerproperty changes on theiring using partial molar properties	Hinesica/Fleaceo/Decign: Compute estimates of 108 elementary/vacion state using transition state-theory and calificon fleeory	Saley: Incolucion to the Denerat of DDHK; 12: Poceet: Saley Planagement and EPW; Rick Management Program Soley: Deviding facts along the other antering
1 Main Methods Restate for accesses, assumptions, and estapolation for modeling techniques	48 Transport Solve FOEs and vacable remembed results in Modeb	98 Themse. Compute Ruldproperties from two and three parameter conseponding states	Knuttes/Peacto/Design/Compute estimates for 103: Veccels, Hermal conductivity, and diffusivity of gases from expressione given by the interior theory of gases	24 Discussify For sample, Reinford Larry optime in the Discussify For sample, Reinford and the contact softwarf and the same of indefduals to contact within the department, school, and university in case of index related questions; basic rules of storing channels.
Math Methods: Demonstrate familiarity with modeling 23 techniques (including things to wash out for with respect to accuracy, assumptions, and exceptionation)	Transport: Whe out the constitutive equations for 37 monetrum, thermal energy and mass transport. Be able to explain each term.	67 Theorem Compare and commanitie origins and limitations of various equations of mare	Kinetica/Reacto/Design: Compare the differences TII between internal and external mass standler limitations in catalysis processes	Salvey: Perform common lab activities salvely, e.g., N using needles and syringer, replacing a gas celled and regularor, removing proves callely
Plate Network Concernation Landauty, vehiclata 24. evaluation techniques (e.g., data-quality, applicability, complementer, bias)	28 Transport Specify and apply-boundary conditions	70 Teens: Calcularephase equilibria-using activity coefficient models	Private Analytics (Company and constant TS) physicological and chemical provide the orthology of adaption	75 Salwy: Audge the kazands of a substance from its salwy data sheet.
2 Math Methods Solve orderary differential equations with established analytical methods	Transport Improve understanding of underlying 48 inanceord processes by partying out dimensional analyses	Therewise Calculate changes in thermodynamic properties using the first and second aver of thermodynamics in conjunction with equations of make or denamics in conjunction with equations of make or denamics in territories.	Xinetics/Reacto/Design: Predict fre 8 reactan/gendact composition-uniting a seactor under conditions involvingma/kple reactions	Salwy: Identify and select the personal protective 76 equipment (gives, exercent) suitable for a specific substance or operation.
	43 Transport Describe and give examples of the three modes of manaport	32 Therms: Calculars basics of electrochemical equilibrium, e.g. Nematrequation	Kinetics/Teacro/Design: Use the mandy state 34 approximation to develop a said tate equation for a mail-state reaction requestor	77 Salwy: Assess the salwy of a laboratory specialize
	57 Transport Exéculare hear flux due to radiation	02 Tooms: Calculare pure fluid and minure phase equilibria	Kinetos Pascos Decigo: Solve naraetal and energy 98 balance equations for bacch, cent-bacch, stimed- filer, plug-filer, and packed bed reactors	194 Effect Formulate enhanced existence applied to engineering case incident samplines "enhance tools
			Knotten Paraste/Design Solve for the compositions in S2 an equilibrium searing misture, given the equilibrium constant and initial conditions	
			Kinetics/ReactoDesign: Schematicals describe 10 residence time dombutions for ideal plugiflox, stread- rise, and resideal searchers	
			Kinerica/Reacto/Decign Explain the basic	
			Tel language a fam-year college maders (sear peel	
			Anna Kenetica Reactor Design Differentiate between	
			elementary and nonelementary reaction expansions	

Sorted Learning

Objectives Within Each Level According

to Their Averaged Rated Importance

Conducted a Second Organization According to Course (e.g., Transport)

Transport					
Undergraduate	Undergraduate Graduate Specialize		Not Sure		
45 Transport Perform vector and tensor operations	Transport: Solve and physically interpret simple steady-trate conduction, diffusion, and fluid liber problems in rectangular, org/mid/sil, and splesical geometries, with and without zero-order and fist- order generation(lists using shell (i.e., integral) balances.	Transport: Develop a model for a defined chemical engineering transport problem incolving at least two modes of varioport that can be solved using the base package of COMSCL. Transport models can include steady state, unsteady transport processor, inegular goomest, and nonlinear	Transport Fligorous and sophisticated understanding of the fundamental physics, transitioning to integrated applications in bio, materialis, reactors, and separations.		
Transport Given a stress-strain relationship, 47 categorize the behavior as Newtonian or non- Newtonian	51 Transport Convert PDEs to CDEs using combination of variables and solve	Transport: Apply knowledge of fundamental electroklasels phenomena, such at the flow past stransport of surfaces and electrophonesis: to analyze and predict the behavior of charged particles and fluids in various electrochemical and biotechnological applications.	52 <sup>m</sup> Transport Contrast Eulerian and Lagrangian viewpoints		
40 Transport Solve PDEs and visualize numerical results in Mailab	Transport: Construct and deliver 54 <sup>44</sup> effective oral (presentation) and written (paper) sommunication regarding the background, theorg, methods, results,		N Transport: Classify and apply process intensification principles		
Transport: Vrite out the constitutive 27 equations for momentum, thermal energy and mass transport. Be able to explain	55 Transport: Compute temperature profiles using th finite difference method	•			
39 Transport: Specify and apply boundary conditions	56 Transport Compare macroscopic, microscopic and molecular approaches to solving transport				
Transport: Improve understanding of 46 underlying transport processes by carrying out dimensional analyses	38 Transport Split PDEs into two or more ODEs and solve via separation of variables				
Transport: Describe and give examples of the three modes of transport	Transport: Solve and physically interpret [i.e., 42 evaluate] one-dimensional unsteady state state problems and multi-dimensional steady- state mansport problems.				
57 Transport: Calculate heat flux due to radiation	Transport Pleason how developing (unsteads) or developed (steads state) temperature or ocnoemration profiles interact with developing or developed velocity profiles				
	Transport Constrant and simplify differential balances for momentum, thermal energy, and species mass in nectangular, ogindrical and species react in nectangular, ogindrical and species reacting to constrain the second				
	34 Transport: Analyse the behavior of materials using constitutive equations in tensor form and				
	Transport: Recall and explain each term in the 43 combined momentum flux tensor, the combined				
	50" Transport Derive the Happy Policeulle equation				

Undergraduate	Graduate	Specialize	Not Sure
49 Transport: Describe and give examples of the three modes of transport	Transport: Construct and deliver effective oral (presentation) and written (paper) communication 54 regarding the background, theov, methods, results, and analysis of your problem and calculation.	Transport: Develop a model for a defined chemical engineering transport problem involving at least two modes of transport mice can be solved using the base package of COMSOL Transport models can include steedy-state, unsteady transport processes, imegalar geometry, and nonlineer	14 Transport: Classify and apply process 14 intensification principles
39 Transport: Specify and apply boundary conditions	Transport: Reason how developing (unsteadly) or developed (steadly state) temperature or concentration profiles interact with developing or developed velocity profiles	Transport Apply innoviedge of fundamental electrokinetic phenomena, such as the flow past changed surfaces and electrophoresis, to analyze and predict the behavior of changed particles and fluids in various electrochemical and biotechnological applications.	Transport: Rigorous and sophisticated understanding of the fundamental physics, transitioning to integrated applications in bio, materials, reactors, and separations.
Transport: Write out the constitutive equations for 37 momentum, thermal energy and mass transport. Be able to explain each term.	Transport: Solve and physically interpret (i.e., 42 evaluate) one-dimensional unstready state transport problems and multi-dimensional steady- state transport problems.		52 Transport: Contrast Eulerian and Lagrangian viewpoints
Transport: Improve understanding of underlying 46 transport processes by carrying out dimensional analyses	Transport: Solve and physically interpret simple steady-state conduction, diffusion, and fluid flow 41. problems in rectangular, cylindrical, and spherical geometries, with and without zero-order and first- order generation/loss using shell (i.e., integral)		
57 Transport: Calculate heat flux due to radiation	56 Transport: Compare macroscopic, microscopic and molecular approaches to solving transport.		
Transport: Given a stress-strain relationship, 47 categorize the behavior as Newtonian or non- Newtonian	Transport: Construct and simplify differential balances for momentum, thermal energy, and 55 species mass in nectangular, cylindrical and spherical geometries, accounting for convective and diffusive (molecular-scale) transport and		
40 Transport: Solve FDEs and visualize numerical results in Matlab	55 Transport: Compute temperature profiles using the finite difference method		
45 Transport: Perform vector and tensor operations	Transport: Recall and explain each term in the 43 combined momentum flux tensor, the combined energy flux vector, and the combined mass flux		
	Transport: Split PDEs into two or more ODEs and solve via separation of variables		
	51 Transport: Convert PDEs to ODEs using combination of variables and solve		
	34 Transport: Analyze the behavior of materials using constitutive equations in tensor form and		
	ou transport: uerve the nagen-Polseuille equation		



# **Proposed Modularization - Thermo**

Undergraduate	Graduate	Specialized	Not Sure
Thermo: Calculate changes in thermodynamic properties using the first and second laws of thermodynamics in conjunction with equations of state or departure functions	Thermo: Calculate chemical compositions in reaction 71 equilibria involving multiple independent reactions in nonideal systems	Thermo: Create computer codes in Python or a similar 64 language to solve problems such as computing changes in thermodynamic properties, phase equilibria, etc.	Thermo: Calculate thermodynamic properties of ideal 68 gas polyatomic molecules using statistical mechanics
Thermo: Read quantitatively and interpret two-and three-species phase diagrams in mixtures involves solids, liquids, gases, compounds/alloys, and critical phenomena	Thermo: Calculate electrolyte equilibrium, e.g. acid base 29 equilibrium, partioning of ions between phases, charge distribution near surfaces	Thermo: Solve the Schrodinger equation and calculate 58 the eigenfunctions for the following model systems: particle-in-a-box, harmonic oscillator, and rigid rotor	Thermo: Analyze basics of interfacial thermodynamics (e.g. adsorption equilibrium, Gibbs dividing surface, interfacial excess, Gibbs Thompson equation) and self assembly (e.g. micellar equilibrium)
69 Generation of the second seco	Thermo: Describe how intermolecular potentials give 61 rise to non-ideal fluid and solid behavior		Thermo: Establish precise logical structure of classical, nonmolecular Gibbsian thermo and its key appln to pure 16 & mixture property relations and equilibrium & stability link to molecular origins of thermochemical & substance properties (stat mech).
Thermo: Compare and contrast the origins and 67 limitations of various equations of state	Thermo: Define the purpose of a partition function and 63 give examples of how it is used		Thermo: Describe how statistical mechanics can be used 60 to compute thermophysical properties of macroscopic systems
Thermo: Calculate phase equilibria using activity coefficient models			Thermo: Identify partition functions for different 59 ensembles
32       Thermo: Calculate basics of electrochemical equilibrium, e.g. Nernst equation         65       Thermo: Compute property changes on mixing using partial molar properties         Thermo: Compute fluid properties from two and three	Each column sorted	d from <u>highest</u> est outcome rating	Thermo: Derive the Gibbsian functions and the Gibbs- 62 Duhem equation using Legendre transforms

66 parameter corresponding states



Each column sorted from <u>highest</u> outcome rating to <u>lowest</u> outcome rating 5 Average Rating Value 4.11 to 4.60 4 Average Rating Value 3.63 to 4.11 3 Average Rating Value 3.14 to 3.63 2 Average Rating Value 2.65 to 3.14 1 Average Rating Value 2.17 to 2.65

# **Proposed Modularization - Safety**

### Undergraduate

75 Safety: Judge the hazards of a substance from its safety data sheet.

9 Safety: Recognize personal, process, & community safety

Safety: Identify and select the personal protective
 76 equipment (gloves, eyewear) suitable for a specific substance or operation.

**77** Safety: Assess the safety of a laboratory operation.

Safety: Perform common lab activities safely, e.g. using 74 needles and syringes, replacing a gas cylinder and regulator, removing gloves safely.

Safety: Recall key facts about the safety system of the University. For example, the phone number for campus

73 police; the names of individuals to contact within the department, school, and university in case of safety-related questions; basic rules of storing chemicals.

Safety: introduction to the Elements of OSHA's Process Safety Management and EPA's Risk Management Program

University of

tsburgh.

### Not Sure

Safety: Establish a basic knowledge of plant process 20 control concepts, risk assessments, safety audits, and quality management systems. Safety: Review major codes / regulations that chemical 19 engineers students might encounter across a variety of industries.

Safety: Prepare safety documents: PHA (Process Hazard 28 analysis), LOPA (Layers of protection analysis), MRA (machine risk assessment), MOC (management of change).

35 Safety: Explain the basic processes in fault tree analysis.

36 Safety: Identify components of a fault tree.

Each column sorted from <u>highest</u> outcome rating to <u>lowest</u> outcome rating 5 Average Rating Value 4.11 to 4.60 4 Average Rating Value 3.63 to 4.11 3 Average Rating Value 3.14 to 3.63 2 Average Rating Value 2.65 to 3.14 1 Average Rating Value 2.17 to 2.65

 Most LO's, especially the "important" ones, were sorted as Undergraduate Level



Eun B. (2017). The zone of proximal development as an overarching concept: A framework for synthesizing Vygotsky's theories. Educational Philosophy and Theory, 51(1), 18-30. https://doi.org/10.1080/00131857.2017.1421941

 In our BOK, the graduate core curriculum indicated that the mastery of undergraduate learning is essential for CHE graduate students.



- BOK brainstorming generated many non-CHE learning objectives.
  - Approximately half were specialized knowledge sets (Life Cycle Analysis, programming, Process Control, Renewable Energy)
  - The other half make up "soft" skillsets: communication, project management, interpersonal skills, and business/finance

 Many can be addressed in the Professional Development streams, and others will need to be reinforced in core and elective courses.



 Consider both pedagogy (active learning and project-based learning) and curriculum at same time when modularizing.



 Intentional design of all core courses and professional streams are needed to support the learning graduate students need to develop mastery in the BOK.



# >>> Next Steps

- Analyze Student data for Modularized Thermo Class (Spring 2025)
  - Refine Modularization Process
- Modularize Transport, Kinetics, and Math courses
- Continue implementation of Goal 2





### **The Project Team**



Susan Fullerton -Pl



Götz Veser – co-PI Mary Besterfield-Sacre co-PI



Bob Parker



**April Dukes** 



Sachin Velankar





Chris Wilmer

James McKone



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# Questions





### Single credit modules provide personalization, while maintaining strong ChE fundamentals

