Harnessing the
Adjunct Brain Trust:
Improving
Developmental
Education Through
Transformative
Leadership



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**Description and Outcomes Managing the Braintrust - A Leadership Perspective Defining the Braintrust - Adjunct Roles at PG** Harnessing the Braintrust to Improve Teaching and Learning **Embracing the Braintrust - Cooperation, Collaboration, and Community** Living the Braintrust – an adjunct perspective **Discussion** 

References

**Contact Information** 

#### **Session Agenda**

#### Session Description

Adjuncts play a vital role in advancing developmental programs. The leadership of one department:

- redefined the role of adjuncts;
- created internal opportunities for professional development and career growth;
- encouraged adjunct input into program and curriculum development; and
- fostered a culture of collegiality, collaboration, and equality among all faculty.

#### Session Outcomes

#### **Participants will:**



Discover how the department created and implemented changes that foster growth opportunities for faculty;



Examine how faculty have responded to the process and improved their leadership, motivation, organization, and time management, and



Discuss how the changes impacted student learning and success by building and strengthening leadership skills among faculty, advancing great place initiatives, and providing resources and tools that maximize efficiency in day to day operations.

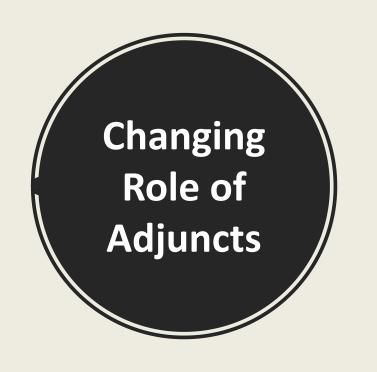
## MANAGING THE BRAINTRUST - A LEADERSHIP PERSPECTIVE

Michael Keathley, PhD

Academic Department Chair

Composition and WAC





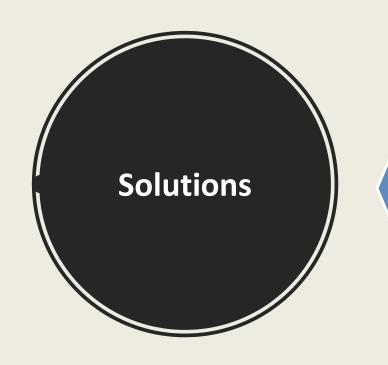
Burns, Smith, and Starcher (2018) contend adjuncts shoulder increasing responsibility for programs' missions and goals.

Across higher education, three quarters of faculty work in part-time positions (Cain, 2015).



As Fox and Powers (2017) and Eagan, Jaeger, and Grantham (2015) show, job satisfaction suffers due to wages, job insecurity, lack of development opportunities, and feelings of not being valued.

Goldstene (2015) argues these concerns threaten teaching effectiveness, growth, and innovation.



Brennan and Magness (2018) contend that the obvious fix of conversion to full-time faculty only serves a minority of adjuncts.

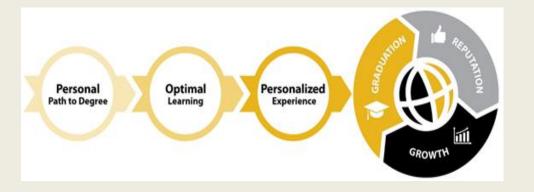
Barnett (2018)
advocates for
solutions based on
transformative
leadership,
especially within
online programs.

### Missions and Goals – Be a Great Place to Work

Purdue Global's Mission Statement Purdue University Global delivers personalized online education tailored to the unique needs of adults who have work or life experience beyond the classroom, enabling them to develop essential academic and professional skills with the support and flexibility they need to achieve their career goals.

The SoGE Mission Statement

The General Education program supports the academic, social, personal, and professional development of learners throughout their engagement with the University. It also provides a learning experience that is engaging, enjoyable, and applicable to students' personal and professional lives while preparing students to meet expectations in chosen fields of study. Purdue Global is committed to professional and career preparation for all graduates. As an institution and an educational community, we commit to graduating "thinkers who can work and workers who can think."



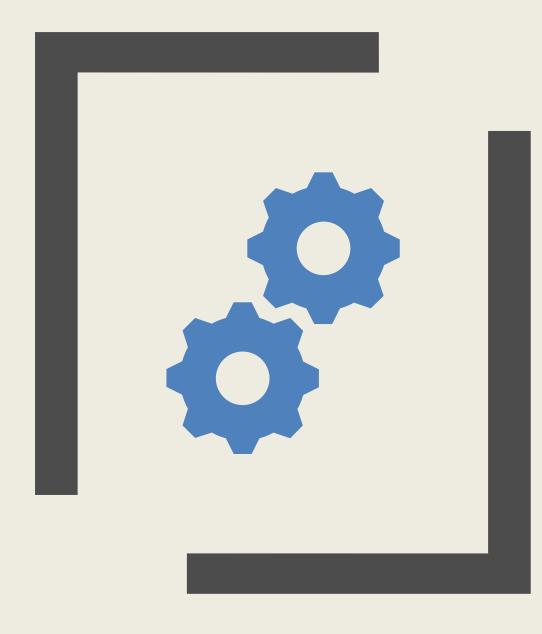
#### **Leadership Qualities**

Trust	Strategy	Engagement	Empowerment	Vision
All cultures understand a climate of fairness and mutual respect that benefits all members (Hitt, Keats, & Yucel, 2003)	"Strategic agility evokes contradictions, such as stability-flexibility, commitment-change, and established routines-novel approaches" (Lewis, Andriopoulos, & Smith, 2014, p. 58).	Leaders as catalysts for innovation and even creative destruction (Kuyatt, 2011).	The diversity of teams must be energized to keep the organization progressing (Agbor, 2008; Morrill, 2010: Yukl, 2015; Darling, 2012).	Vision must energize, even to the point of changing the world (Yucel, 2015; Kurke, 2007).
<ul> <li>Payscale</li> <li>Faculty/employee expectations</li> <li>Monitoring/evaluating /coaching</li> <li>Transparency</li> <li>Communication</li> <li>Awards/recognition</li> </ul>	<ul> <li>Meetings/chats</li> <li>Research         <ul> <li>Pipeline/individual</li></ul></li></ul>	<ul> <li>FTA role</li> <li>Google sites/Hangout s</li> <li>Curriculum</li> <li>Learning communities</li> </ul>	<ul> <li>Taskforces</li> <li>Special projects</li> <li>Information sharing</li> <li>Mentoring</li> <li>PDLs</li> <li>Leadership</li> </ul>	<ul> <li>Mission statements</li> <li>Strategic goals</li> <li>High expectations</li> </ul>

## DEFINING THE BRAINTRUST ADJUNCT ROLES AT PG

Stephanie Thompson, PhD
Full-time Faculty and CM 220 Course Lead
Composition and WAC

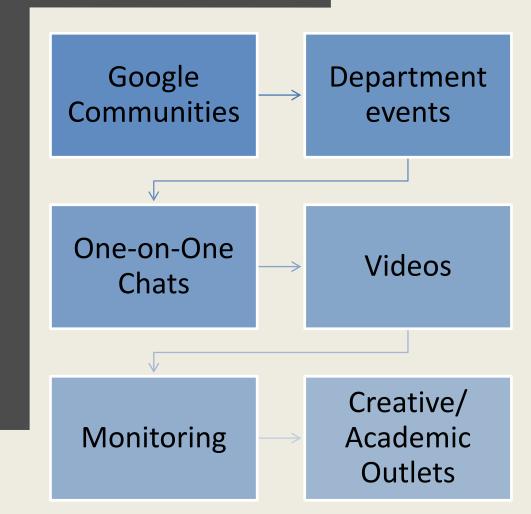




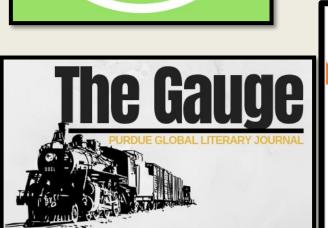
### Full-Time Adjuncts and Adjuncts

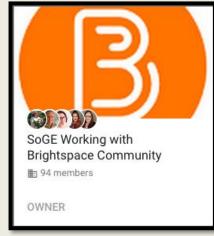
- Two definitions
- Varying needs
  - Support
  - Service
  - Engagement
- Identifying strengths
- Working as a unit to help our students

#### Varying Adjunct Needs











#### Collaboration

- Best Practices
- Renewed Teaching Perspective
- New Tech
- Adapting/Learning New Platforms
- Camaraderie & Community



#### HARNESSING THE BRAINTRUST TO IMPROVE TEACHING AND LEARNING

Josef Vice, MAT
CM 107 Faculty and Course Lead
Composition and WAC



Potentially hundreds of expert voices

Literally hundreds of years of experience

Multiple perspectives on problems and solutions

Treasure trove of strategies for teaching, engaging students, and improving retention

#### **Braintrust as Resource**

Monkey Survey prior to course revision

Wish list

Composition Google Site

Quarterly Course Lead Meetings with "guest experts"

Virtual "Comments Box"

#### Harnessing the Braintrust

# EMBRACING THE BRAINTRUST - COOPERATION, COLLABORATION, AND COMMUNITY

Teresa Marie Kelly, MAT
CM 107 Faculty
Composition and WAC



Mentoring New and Existing Faculty as a Gateway

**Inspire Don't Clone** 

Mentoring and More

**Encourage Growth** 

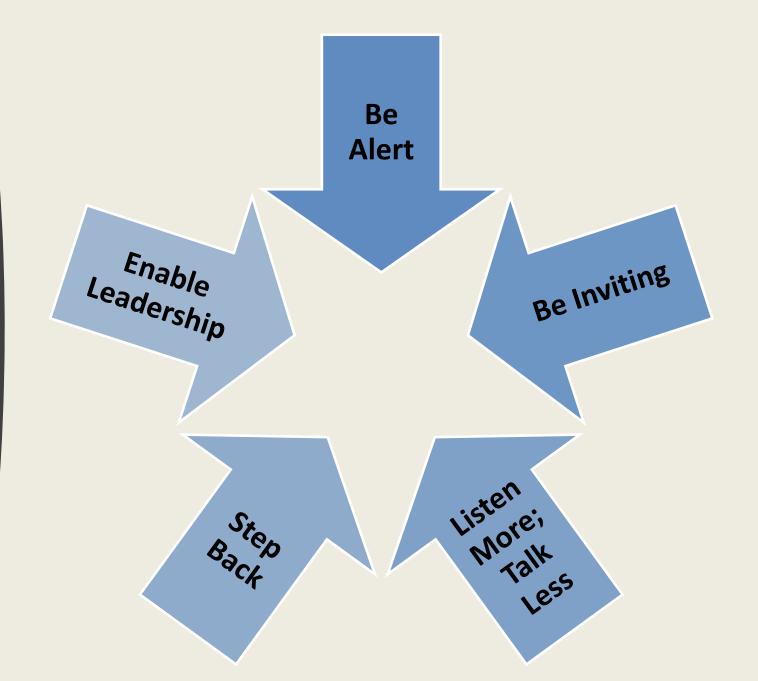
**Look Beyond** 

Kick Them Out of the Nest

#### Cooperation

**Encourage Engagement Point Out Strengths Invite Participation Equality not Hierarchy Forge Connections** 

#### Collaboration



Inspiring Leaders



## LIVING THE BRAINTRUST — AN ADJUNCT PERSPECTIVE

William Ashley Johnson, MFA Full-Time Adjunct

**Composition and WAC** 



Offering
Opportunities
for
Involvement

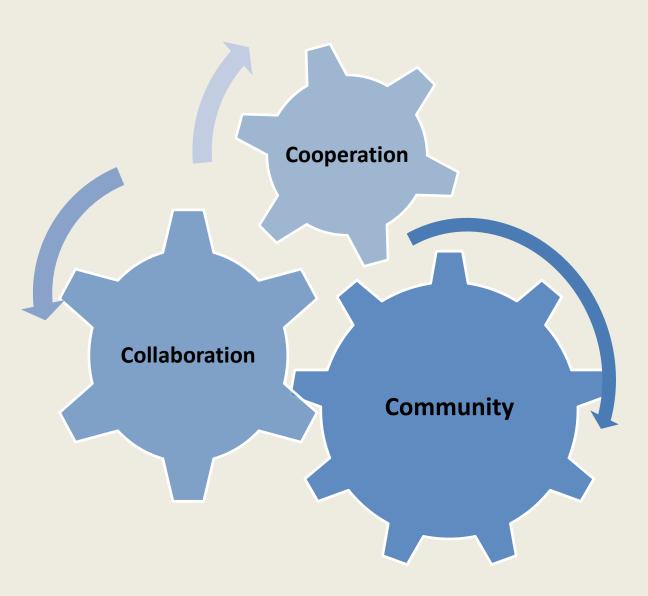
**Utilizing Experience** 

**Encouraging Professional Growth** 

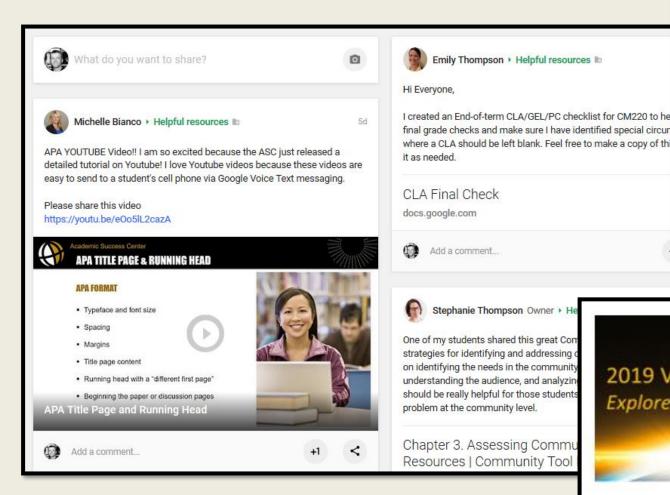
The Adjunct Experience Supporting Pursuits & Goals

#### **Encouraging Professional Growth**

- Adjunct to Full-Time Adjunct
- Faculty Evaluator Portfolio
   Development & Assessment Program
- New Faculty Mentor
- Faculty Liaison Center for Teaching & Learning
- Presentations & Publications Virtual General Education Conference, Virtual Literary Festival, Educator's Exchange, Distance Learning Administration Annual Conference & Proceedings, NADE



#### **Offering Opportunities** for Involvement





Virtual Teaching Assistants -Using Intelligent Agents to Increase Faculty Presence and Student Engagement

with William Ashley Johnson

Tuesday, September 11th at 12:30pm ET

Session Description: Maintaining a regular classroom presence, while at the same time fully engaging students, may seem like a tall order for just one discusses how instructors can utilize Intelligent Agents as Virtual Teaching Assistants to increase both instructor presence and student engagement. The session will review relevant research on the importance of faculty presence, the Agents to quickly and easily maximize both elements.

instructor. However, in this Educator's Exchange session, William Ashley Johnson role student engagement plays in learning, and how educators can use Intelligent

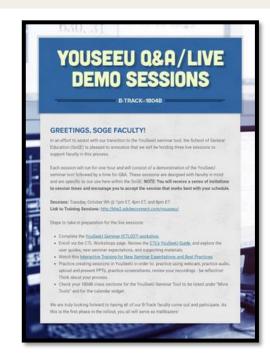


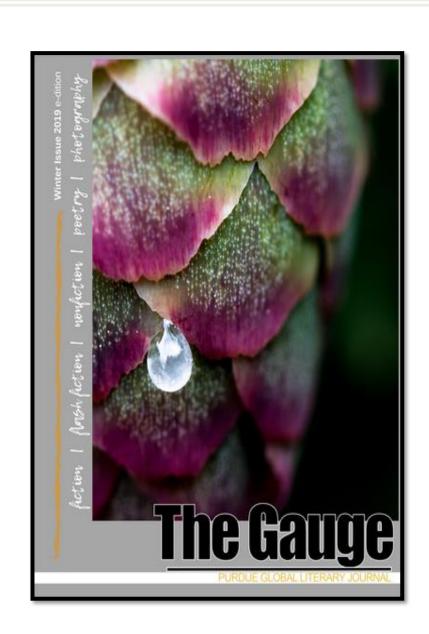
#### **Utilizing Experience**

- Collaboration Projects
- Monthly Brightspace Busting Sessions, Developer/Host
- Bongo/YouSeeU Seminar Faculty Trainer
- The Gauge Literary Journal, Poetry Co-Editor
- Research Pipeline Contributor

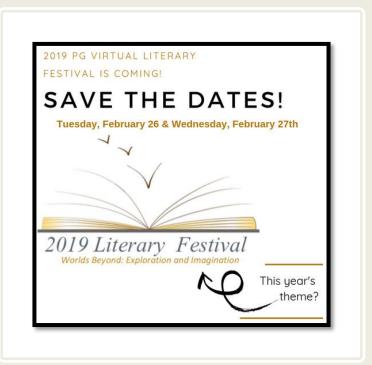
Pairing:	Strengths:		
Ashley Johnson	Brightspsace, visuals, and grading feedback.		
Marilyn Sahiba-Burke	Use of announcements to keep students engaged and informed.		







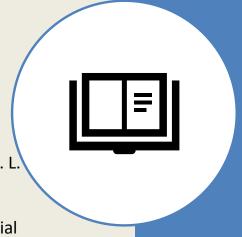




#### **Supporting Pursuits & Goals**

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# Questions, Discussions, and Contacts

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