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Colleagues,

This semester seems like it has gone by in a whirlwind, and I am happy the end of the semester is here because I think we all need a break!

This semester, I was inspired by a NOSS member and a wonderful leader in the field, Amy Doty (Southeast Community College in Nebraska), to include more reflective opportunities for my students. I have had a surprising number of students tell me that these reflections have provided them with a great deal of positive self-awareness that has led them to a better understanding of their own

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Like the students, this is the perfect time of the year for us to reflect on the past semester and begin planning what we might do differently next semester. If you are like me and a (trying, but mostly failing, to recover) perfectionist, it can be overwhelming to think about all of the things that have gone wrong or at the very least differently than hoped. However, it is important to remember that a reflection isn't a laundry list of our failures. It is an honest accounting of what has worked and what hasn't...and why...and what we are going to do about it next time.

Remember that reflection is not just for faculty members. All student success professionals have the opportunity to reflect on the semester and make plans for next semester, no matter what kind of office or department they work in.

Whatever comes of our personal reflections, know that we always have the opportunity to try again next semester. As my favorite Anne (of Green Gables) so aptly put it, "Isn't it nice to think that tomorrow is a new day with no mistakes in it yet?" (Montgomery, 1908, p. 247).

I wish you all a happy holiday break and hope that it is filled with fun and relaxation for you!

Meredith



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