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**Inspire: Engage Students from the Start by “Lighting the Fire” for Learning**

## Activity aim

## This worksheet is meant to be both an activity that you can engage in during and after the workshop and a reference for remembering the ideas you developed through engaging with the workshop materials.

## Instructions

1. Click **File > Make a copy** to copy this document to your college’s Google Drive. **Do not make edits to this document—only make edits to the copy your college creates.**
2. Add all your team members to the **copy** using the Share button on the top right.
3. With your small group, answer the questions below for any two of the top-enrolled first-term courses at your college. If the members of your group work within a similar program area, feel free to pick a common course in your area. Otherwise, pick a common course that you have some familiarity with. This is intended to be a thought exercise, so it is perfectly fine if you don’t have detailed knowledge of course content.

## Inspire: Key definitions

* ***For students:*** **“**Lighting the fire within” by helping students develop a sense of self-efficacy and potential, connect their interests and aspirations to courses, programs, and careers, and become part of a community of learners.
* ***For institutions***: Recognition that inspiring students requiresinstitution-wide attention to creating structures and policies that support teaching and learning and student engagement *within a program*.

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## Activity A: Brainstorming Session: Your Ideas for Putting *Inspire* Into Practice

**Select one of the three guiding principles to focus on:**

* Principle 1: Link course content to students’ lives *(faculty)*
* Principle 2: Link course content to programs and careers *(faculty)*
* Principle 3: Invest in structures that give faculty the time and resources to deliver *Inspire* courses *(administrators)*

## Principle 1: Link course content to students’ lives

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| **Look at your top enrolled courses. What currently connects these courses to students’ experiences (e.g., activities, assignments, readings, etc.)? How might you be able to build on those opportunities or expand them to additional courses?** |
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| **Now, think about a specific course. Brainstorm as if there are no limits: What are your wildest, most exciting ideas for designing new activities and assignments to build connections between this course and students’ lived experiences?** |
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## Principle 2: Link course content to programs and careers

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| **Look at your top enrolled courses. What currently connects these courses to programs and careers (e.g., activities, assignments, readings, etc.)? How might you be able to build on those opportunities or expand them to additional courses?** |
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| **Now, think about a specific course. Brainstorm as if there are no limits: What are your wildest, most exciting ideas for designing new activities and assignments to build connections between this course and programs and careers?** |
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## Principle 3: Invest in structures that give faculty the time and resources to deliver Inspirecourses

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| **Look at your top enrolled courses. What current opportunities for professional development, mentoring, and collaboration does the college offer faculty teaching these courses? How might you be able to build on those opportunities or expand them to additional courses?** |
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| **Brainstorm as if there are no limits: What are your wildest, most exciting ideas for developing new structures and supports to give faculty the time and resources to deliver Inspirecourses?** |
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## Activity B: Connecting Inspire to Existing Guided Pathways Reforms and Strategic Priorities

**Instructions:** To set your college up for success in implementing Inspire, it is critical to connect this work to existing reforms and strategic priorities. Reflect on the following discussion questions:

* Existing reforms
  + What existing guided pathways or other reforms related to teaching and learning is the college currently involved in?
  + In what ways do the three Inspireprinciples relate to those reforms?
* Current strategic priorities
  + What institutional goals or strategic priorities related to teaching and learning has the college set?
  + In what ways do the three Inspire principles relate to those goals or priorities?
* Next steps
  + Who else needs to be involved in order to begin implementing Inspirepractices in connection with existing reforms and/or strategic priorities?
  + What is one thing I as a faculty member and/or we as a department can do to start implementing Inspirepractices?
  + What is one thing we as administrators can do to begin identifying the necessary resources for supporting Inspire practices?
  + What are some potential barriers to implementing Inspirepractices?

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