

# Take Five

August 29, 2022

## *Implementing Class Group Work*



*Building and Rebuilding the IUK Community* will take intentional action. At April's HLC Conference I was fortunate to hear Jeff Duncan-Andrade from California State University challenge us about why we do not promote the classroom as its own freestanding community. Why do we overemphasize individual achievement to the point of discouraging collaboration? Why are we so quick to label sharing of knowledge as cheating? Why do we reinforce negative student perceptions of group work? Why do we insist on over-individualized grading when the working world rarely judges our performance in such strict, points-governed ways? Dr. Duncan-Andrade was being intentionally provocative, but I was convinced that we can and should do more to systematize how our classrooms are communities. For me, that means instituting *peer circles* in all A101 classes - these are groups of 3-4 students whose sole job is to check up on each other weekly all semester. Each member of the circle is responsible for reaching out to one other member, so each is receiving care from one peer while providing it to a different one. I encourage all faculty to adopt this approach or create a similar system and hold your student community accountable to following through. We need our entire community to help everyone hang in and succeed, and that includes our students! Thank you. -Christina Downey ([downeyca@iuk.edu](mailto:downeyca@iuk.edu))

On August 9, those who attended the IU Kokomo Academic Affairs Faculty and Staff Retreat visited the Eugene and Marilyn Glick Indiana History Center in Indianapolis, where they saw the Eva Kor exhibit, complete with a hologram and VR experience, and also enjoyed a live vocal performance in the Cole Porter Room.



## Upcoming Events

- 8/29: Faculty Senate Retreat (2:30-3:30 p.m., KC 130AC)
- 8/30: [Canvas: Modules & Pages](#) (9-11 a.m., Zoom)
- 8/30: August Birthday Celebration (4-5 p.m., SM 214)
- 8/31: [Canvas: Modules & Pages](#) (9-11 a.m., Zoom)
- 8/31: Line Dancing with Tina! (2-3 p.m., Cole Fitness Center)
- 9/1: [Canvas: Quizzes](#) (3-4:30 p.m., Kelly Student Center KA130)
- 9/2: Tennis Match (3 p.m., Foster Park)
- 9/6: [Kaltura: Personal Capture & Closed Captions](#) (9-11 a.m., Zoom)
- 9/6: [Activities Fair](#) (10 a.m.-2 p.m., Quad)
- 9/7: [Using VoiceThread to Engage Students](#) (9-11 a.m., Zoom)
- 9/8: [Canvas: SpeedGrader & DocViewer](#) (3-4:40 p.m., Library KA130)
- 9/8: [Sustainability: Go Green Game Night](#) (5-7 p.m., Cafeteria)
- 9/13: [Quick Check](#) (1:30-3:30 p.m., Zoom)
- 9/20: [Using VoiceThread to Engage Students](#) (9-11 a.m., Zoom)

## 100 Ways in 100 Days Update



Our "100 Ways in 100 Days" campaign is off to a roaring start! As I announced last week, we are making all Fridays "Spirit Days," when staff and faculty are encouraged to wear IU gear and jeans. J.R. Pico is planning a "Fiesta" with Hispanic food and fun on our campus. Tracy Springer and Christina Downey will work to help faculty integrate language around NACE Career Competencies into syllabi. Keep your eye on the board in the Kelley Center for updates as ideas are implemented.

## *Kudos for Kokomojo*

Congratulations go out to Jamie Oslawski-Lopez for being one of IU Kokomo's recipients of the Trustees Teaching Award!