

“Research in Action” Podcast Instructor Guide

Use the following episode description, learning objectives, guiding questions and activity suggestions to more easily include “Research in Action” podcast episodes as a supplemental resource for your course.

Zapoura Newton-Calvert & Dr. Deborah Smith Arthur on Capstone Courses [00:00-36:28]

Research in Action - Episode 129

Podcast and Episode Information

“Research in Action” is a weekly podcast about topics and issues related to research in higher education featuring experts across a range of disciplines.

On this episode of the podcast, Katie is joined by two guests:

Zapoura Newton-Calvert serves as Digital Coordinator and Capstone faculty member in Portland State University's University Studies Program. Her research and pedagogical foci include removing barriers to educational equity, social justice in online learning, community-based learning online, and Universal Design for Learning. She served as Faculty-in-Residence for Community-Based Learning in P.S.U.'s Office of Academic Innovation for three years and also worked as a Service-Learning Coordinator at Portland Community College. Her recent publication (also co-authored with Deborah Smith Arthur) *Online Community-Based Learning as the Practice of Freedom: The Online Capstone Experience at Portland State University* explores instructor presence and community formation in online CBL courses.

Dr. Deborah Smith Arthur, an Associate Professor at Portland State University, in the interdisciplinary University Studies program. Her work mostly revolves around juvenile and criminal justice and educational access for incarcerated and formerly incarcerated students. She has been teaching Capstone courses for 15 years and teaches a fully online Capstone once a year.

Segment One [00:00-18:15] - In this segment, Deborah and Zapoura share some of their research on and experiences teaching capstone courses.

Segment Two [18:16-36:28] - In this segment, Zapoura and Deborah discuss some of the benefits of moving a capstone course online.

Bonus Clip [00:00-05:08]: Choosing Each Other as Co-authors

Show notes and a transcript for this episode can be found at:

<http://ecampus.oregonstate.edu/research/podcast/e129/>

Learning Outcomes

By listening to this episode, students will be able to:

- Describe capstone courses
- Discuss the benefits and challenges of designing capstone courses for an online environment
- Review suggestions for incorporating a capstone course into an online environment

Guiding Questions for Listening

- What are capstone courses?
- How does Dr. Smith Arthur explain the contribution of capstone courses to student learning?
- How does Zapoura Newton-Calvert explain the contribution of capstone courses to student careers?
- According to Dr. Smith Arthur and Zapoura Newton-Calvert, what are some of the benefits and challenges of designing capstone courses for the online environment?
- What do Zapoura Newton-Calvert and Dr. Smith Arthur share are some of the student learning outcomes they've seen as a result of capstone courses?
- According to Dr. Smith Arthur and Zapoura Newton-Calvert, what can be some of the benefits of transitioning a capstone course to the online environment?

- What do Zapoura Newton-Calvert and Dr. Smith Arthur share are some areas they would like to see improved in the online learning environment?
- What do Dr. Smith Arthur and Zapoura Newton-Calvert share were some of the qualities they found valuable in choosing each other as co-authors for contributing to *High Impact Practices in Online Education*? (See also, Bonus Clip)

Possible Activities

- Ask students to visit the show notes for this episode (<http://ecampus.oregonstate.edu/research/podcast/e129/>) and look at an additional resource that is linked in connection with this episode. Students can write a short review of that resource to share with their peers.
- Ask students to visit the show notes for this episode (<http://ecampus.oregonstate.edu/research/podcast/e129/>) and post an additional resource connected to the content of the episode in the comments section.
- Have students share questions that are raised for them based on the content of this episode. What would they ask Zapoura Newton-Calvert and Dr. Deborah Smith Arthur if they could?

Suggested Citation (APA, 6th edition)

Linder, K. (Producer/host). (2018, September 17). *Zapoura Newton-Calvert & Dr. Deborah Smith Arthur on Capstone Courses*. [Audio podcast]. Retrieved from <http://ecampus.oregonstate.edu/research/podcast/e129/>

Notes

About the Research in Action Podcast

“Research in Action” (RIA) is a podcast about topics and issues related to research in higher education featuring experts across a range of disciplines. Episodes are posted weekly and include guest interviews and occasional solo episodes. Guests are from a range of higher education institutions and share their expertise on qualitative, quantitative and mixed methods as well as their personal experiences as researchers, research and writing practices, organizational and productivity strategies, and much more. Some weeks, bonus content will also be posted.

“Research in Action” is hosted by [Dr. Katie Linder](#), research director for Oregon State University Ecampus.

Visit the podcast website to view [show notes and transcripts for each episode](#), explore our [episode guide](#), learn more about how to [contact us](#), or [suggest a future guest or topic](#).

You may subscribe to the [“Research in Action” RSS feed](#) or access the podcast via [iTunes](#), [Soundcloud](#) or [Stitcher](#).

“Research in Action” is also listed on [MERLOT](#).

The “Research in Action” podcast is a resource funded by Oregon State University Ecampus – ranked top ten in the nation for online education two years running by U.S. News & World Report. OSU Ecampus has more than 45 degree programs and more than 1,000 classes online.

Contact

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