# Distributed Service Learning:
# An Interinstitutional Model for Collaboration

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# You Are Going To Hear About

- Context
- Rationale
- Exportable pedagogical model
- Tools & technology
- Assessment

# Course Particulars

- Uses online environment to combine
  - LIS 672 Instructional Design at UNC-G
  - EDUC 253 Instructional System Development at UNC-CH

- Total of 13 graduate students

- First time course taught this way

# Rationale

- **Social Relevance**
  - Service learning

- **Professional Relevance**
  - Collaborative professional development
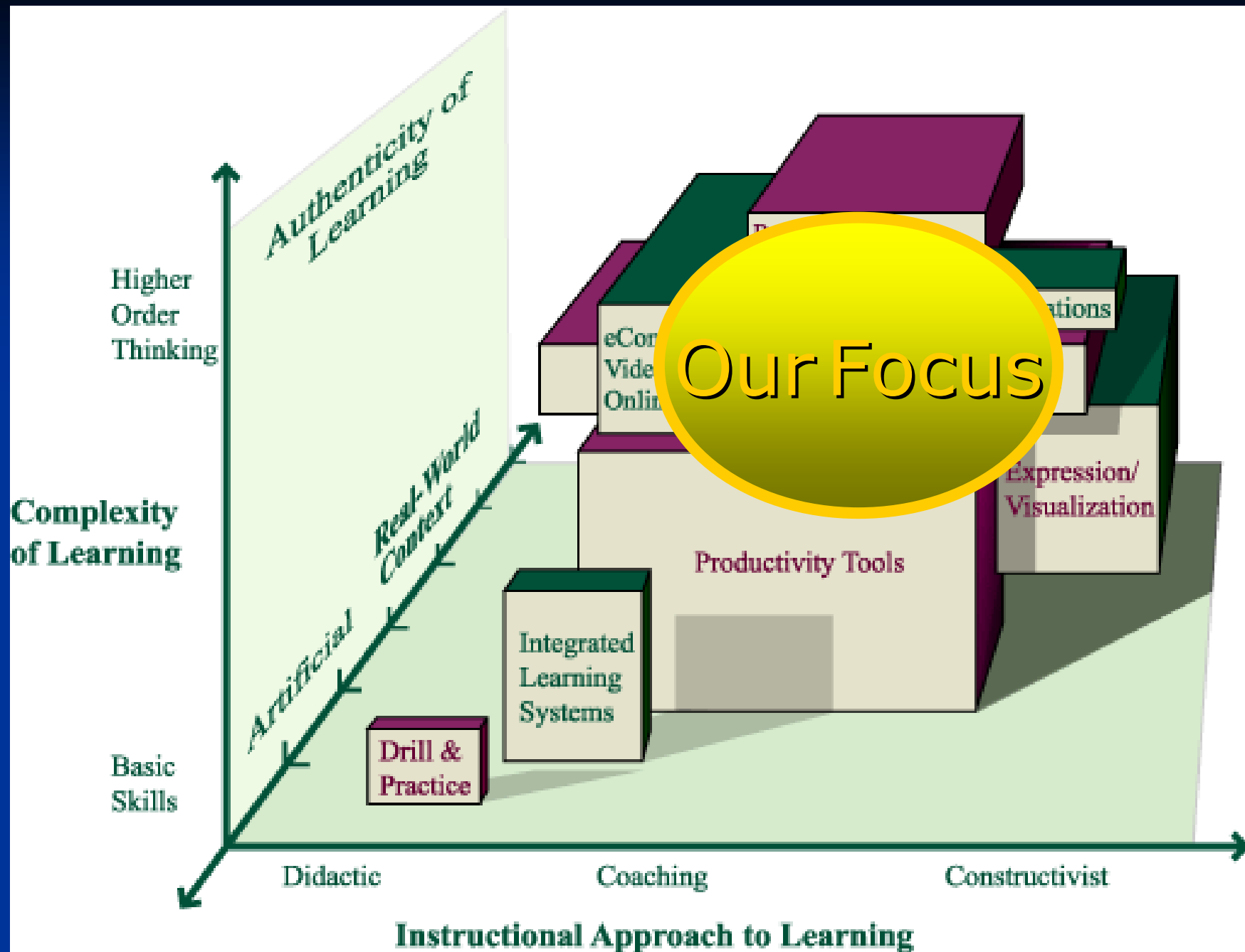  - Distributed workplace

- **Instructional Relevance**
  - Problem-based learning
  - Constructivist teaching
  - Distributed learning
  - Collaborative learning
  - Activity theory

Mega effect

Macro effect

Micro effect

# Rationale

- Social Relevance
  - Service learning

- Professional Relevance
  - Collaborative professional development
  - Distributed workplace

- Instructional Relevance
  - Problem-based learning
  - Constructivist teaching
  - Distributed learning
  - Collaborative learning
  - Activity theory

Mega-effect

Macro effect

Micro effect

**Otherwise it's just information**

Authenticity of Learning

Higher Order Thinking

Complexity of Learning

Real-World Context

Artificial

Basic Skills

Our Focus

eCon...
Vide...
Onlin...

...ations

Expression/ Visualization

Productivity Tools

Integrated Learning Systems

Drill & Practice

Didactic          Coaching          Constructivist

**Instructional Approach to Learning**

Internet / graphic design
solutions for the
information
age

Performance Improvement Models

- Focus On Organizational Problems
- Very Broad Scope
- Start With Needs Assessment
- Emphasis On Causes & Performance Factors
- Selects Solution/Intervention Based On Causes
- Is Instruction the Only Intervention?
- What Do PI Models Assume?

communication

content

# Center for New North Carolinians

# CNNC Organization

- In existence since 2001

- Affiliated with UNCG

- In partnership with 25 other agencies

- Funded by AmeriCorps and other sources

# CNNC Mission

The Center for New North Carolinians will build bridges among immigrant populations and existing communities throughout the state of North Carolina by providing:

- Outreach and educational programming
- Research and evaluation
- Information Services
- Technical Support
- Immigrant and Refugee Leadership Development

# Tour of Online Course

# Things that Have Been Fun

- Collaboration
- Conversations about pedagogy
- Creating content
- Seeing students when they are working smoothly
- Adding realism to a course
- Learning through doing
- Bringing in national experts to interact with our students

# Things that Have Been Difficult

- Fast pace of developing while underway
- Deciding on appropriate amount of support/scaffolding
- Timely coordination of information flow between students and service organization
- Doing some things at a distance
- Getting good group rapport, especially about pacing
- Seeing students when they are not working smoothly

# Student Comment

- *"The course is developing well. However, I am finding that the structure of the assignments to be somewhat confusing but this may be a result of years of the traditional approach to learning."*

# Student Comment

- *"In a global sense, the course is going fairly well for me. I am learning a lot, provided opportunities to apply what I know, and actually doing what it is I am learning about. I have also been given some feedback about my work to date, and I appreciate those comments."*

# Student Comment

- *"The Blog is great! I learn as much from it as the other stuff. It makes me want to meet you at that little store in Pittsboro so I can watch those spirited conversations!"*

# Student Comment

- *"I am interested in the course content thus far, and like the notion of problem-based learning, but I'm just not sure it can be done as effectively over the internet with groups of people from two different universities. I feel I am not performing up to par nor doing my part within my group, yet I'm not sure what more I can do. I am struggling to find direction."*

# Student Comment

- *"The collaboration and online aspect are visionary on the professors' part, I just think for many of us "old school" people we need a little more structure (in advance) so we can produce a product that is satisfactory for both ourselves and the professors."*

# Practical Advice

- Start early
- Prepare students to use technology
- Ensure clarity about expectations
- Have clear course structure & organization
- Communicate often asynchronously and synchronously
- Develop rich media
- Have a plan to revise

**Summary**

*Glad to be doing this.*
*We think it is working.*