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### **MELISSA SCOTT KOZAK, PH.D.**

I am a Principal Lecturer and Undergraduate Program Coordinator in Human Development and Family Science, where I'm committed to creating accessible and engaging learning experiences. I teach courses such as Human Sexuality Across the Lifespan and Family Policy, and I intentionally integrate high-impact experiences to support student growth. I'm excited to serve as an Active Learning Mentor and to support colleagues in designing meaningful, student-centered learning environments.

#### **I AM EXCITED TO TALK TO YOU ABOUT...**

how active learning fosters belonging, encourages deeper reflection, and helps students connect course concepts to their personal and professional lives.

#### **MOST USED ACTIVE LEARNING STRATEGIES**

Project-based learning, think-pair-share, and student-driven syllabus development.

#### **BIGGEST SURPRISE IN YOUR COURSE REDESIGN**

My blind spots! The redesign highlighted how I took my knowledge and skills for granted.

#### **GREATEST TRIUMPH IN ACTIVE LEARNING & COURSE REDESIGN**

Using BOPPPS lesson planning and TILT principles to strengthen transparency, belonging, and engagement across the course.

#### **WORDS OF WISDOM**

Be open to surprises – about the content, process, yourself, and students!

#### **MOST MEANINGFUL ACTIVE LEARNING MEMORY**

In Human Sexuality Across the Lifespan, students co-create the syllabus by identifying their topics of interest and aligning them with the course's approved learning outcomes and outline. This empowers them to take ownership of the material and strengthens their intrinsic motivation to engage with course content.

#### **ADVICE FOR OVERCOMING ROADBLOCKS**

Peel back the layers and talk about it with someone! Utilize colleagues to share ideas, co-plan, review instructional materials, and help you identify actionable approaches to active learning tailored to your course goals.