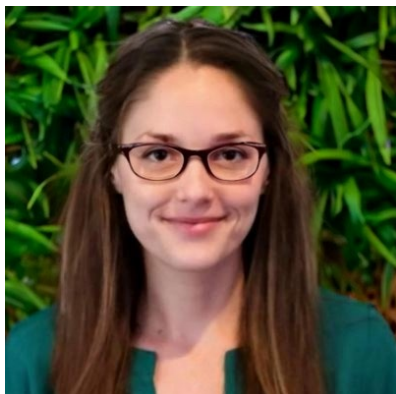




BRYANA BUSH, PH.D.

I AM EXCITED TO TALK TO YOU ABOUT:

Anything PLA related! I am a huge believer in the PLA program and it has transformed my teaching, so I LOVE talking about it. I am especially interested in PLA coaching and professional development, as well as using PLAs ideas and information to help make improvements to courses.

OFFICE HOURS:

During or after Monthly PLA Faculty community meetings and by appointment. I am most available on Mondays after 11:30am, Tuesdays after 2:30pm, Wednesdays between 10 am and 2pm, and Fridays after 10am. I am also happy to respond to questions via e-mail anytime.

MOST USED PLA MANAGEMENT STRATEGIES:

Empowering PLAs to have agency both within the classroom and in our meetings. When PLAs feel heard and respected, they have so much to offer.

BIGGEST SURPRISE IN YOUR PLA MANAGEMENT AND MENTORSHIP:

I was surprised at how much the PLAs improved my teaching and the course overall. The PLAs have been an amazing source of feedback, have contributed creative and thoughtful solutions to challenges, and brought new ideas to existing activities. I cannot overstate how working with them has transformed my teaching.

ADVICE FOR OVERCOMING ROADBLOCKS:

Be patient and ask a lot of questions. As we all know, there are times when plans fall flat or expectations aren't met. When that happens, I found it helpful to try to understand what went wrong and employing patience with where students are in their development (including PLAs).

MOST MEANINGFUL PLA MEMORY:

Each semester when I discuss with PLAs the skills and competencies, they have gained that will help them towards their future careers. PLAs get a lot out of the program, especially with a little help reframing "teaching" skills to transferrable skills.

GREATEST TRIUMPH IN YOUR PLA MANAGEMENT:

After incorporating PLAs into my course, my students reported both in surveys and anecdotally how much more welcoming and supportive the classroom felt. This is not an easy thing to accomplish in a large-lecture STEM course, and has a tremendous influence on diminishing student resistance to active learning as well as retaining students in STEM fields. My favorite quote from a student is that a class of 125 students "felt small" because of the PLA interaction.

WORDS OF WISDOM:

Have fun! Enjoy the time you have with your PLAs and enjoy watching PLAs interact with your students. I always look forward to weekly meetings with the PLAs because the hour is both productive *and* fun.