

Near-to-Peer Learning

WEDNESDAY FACULTY EXCHANGE - NOVEMBER 5, 2025
BRIANNA CLARK- CHAIR, EVENT & HOSPITALITY MANAGEMENT

In the Department of Event & Hospitality Management, new students team up with senior peers for hands-on, project-based learning. This near-to-peer learning increases student knowledge, confidence, belonging and pride in the institution.

How could you structure near-to-peer learning in your department?



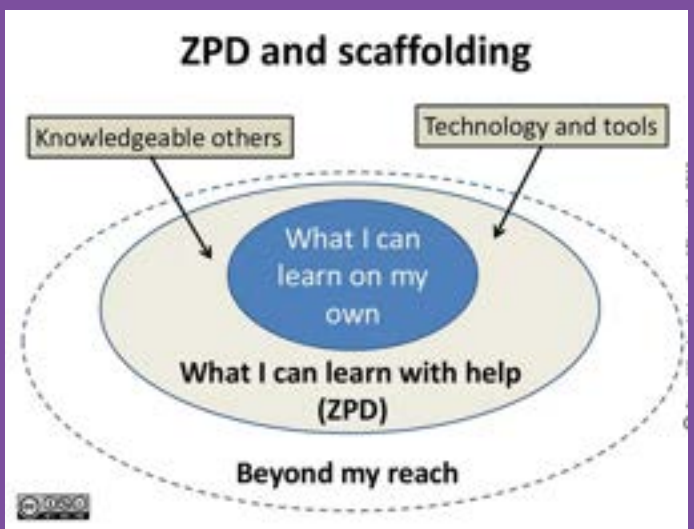
KEY POINTS ON NEAR-TO-PEER LEARNING



Collaboration Builds Confidence

Senior students guide first-years through real challenges, fostering growth and deeper learning. This near-to-peer learning leads to improved student connections, motivation, engagement, and skills that contribute to academic success.

According to **Vygotsky's Zone of Proximal Development**, we learn best when tasks are slightly beyond our ability but achievable with help. Working with others provides guidance & support that enable us to master skills we couldn't accomplish alone.



Research supports **implementing structured near-to-peer learning** between first-year and upperclass students, particularly when programs include training for mentors, regular contact between mentors and mentees, and opportunities for both academic and social interaction.

Read More!

- *Thornton, [First Initial], Orr, R., Michaels, J., & Spain, J. (2024, August). Peer mentoring for student success: Powered by Publics, Eastern Cluster. Association of Public and Land-grant Universities.*
- *Harland, T. (2003). Vygotsky's Zone of Proximal Development and Problem-based Learning: Linking a theoretical concept with practice. Teaching in Higher Education, 8(2), 263-272.*