






Connie Foster

Facilitator + Consultant

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 River Falls, WI

Education

Doctorate of Philosophy, Physical Education/Sports Psychology, University of Minnesota

Master of Arts, Physical Education, University of Southern California

Bachelors of Science, Psychology, California State University – Long Beach

Certification

Certified Facilitator in Technology of Participation methods.

Strengths

- Process facilitator
- Large and small group facilitation
- Strategic conversations
- Consensus-based planning
- Design thinking

- Participatory strategic planning
- Action planning and implementation
- Project management processes

- Cultivating an inclusive, respectful, collaborative environment
- Culturally sensitive and responsive

- Crafting mission, vision, values
- Environmental scanning
- Selecting relevant metrics
- Academic planning
- Executive coaching and leadership development

- Meaning making and sense making
- Synthesizing and integrating
- Catalyst and guide
- Thought partner

Professional Summary

Having spent a 30-year career in higher education serving in academic teaching and leadership positions from Assistant Professor through Interim Chancellor/President, I understand the challenges faced by academic institutions, including annual cycles; economic and demographic stressors; and the world of regents, administrators, department chairs, faculty and students.

In addition to having a pulse on issues in higher education, I am a facilitator, providing structure for meaningful dialogue, reflection, and collaboration. Shared awareness, shared agreement, and shared commitment to action are outcomes of expert facilitation methods.

As such, I now serve as a facilitator and consultant to academic institutions of higher learning. Through purposeful and participatory design including strategic conversations to address adaptive challenges, I guide and support academic communities in becoming the learning community they envision.

Higher Education

UNIVERSITY OF WISCONSIN – RIVER FALLS

- Interim Chancellor 2008–2009
- Interim Provost/Vice Chancellor for Academic Affairs 2007–2008
- Dean, College of Education & Professional Studies 2003–2007
- Interim Dean, College of Education & Professional Studies 2002–2003
- Athletic Director/Chair, Health & Human Performance 1996–2002
- Professor/Women's AD, Health & Human Performance 1992–1996
- Associate/Assistant Professor, Health & Human Performance 1984–1992

Facilitation

TECHNOLOGY OF PARTICIPATION FACILITATION METHODS

After retiring from UW-River Falls in July, 2009, I earned the credential of Certified Facilitator in the Technology of Participation (ToP) Facilitation Methods from the Institute of Cultural Affairs. With these tools and skills, I use facilitation methods, grounded in inclusive participation and profound respect, to help groups think, generate ideas, have generative conversations, and work together.

SOCIETY FOR COLLEGE AND UNIVERSITY PLANNING

I serve as a Facilitator for Society for College and University Planning (SCUP). SCUP is an innovative college and university planning association. It offers a three part integrated planning institute focused on the complexities and challenges of higher education institutions. Over the last ten years, I have served as a facilitator for myriad SCUP planning workshops, and I was a member of the design team to recreate the planning institute.