



College of Engineering

ADDING VALUE TO A 0-CREDIT COURSE

OVERVIEW

This poster reflects an original project in which student feedback was received & change implemented for 0-credit courses affiliated with the Purdue Co-op Program.

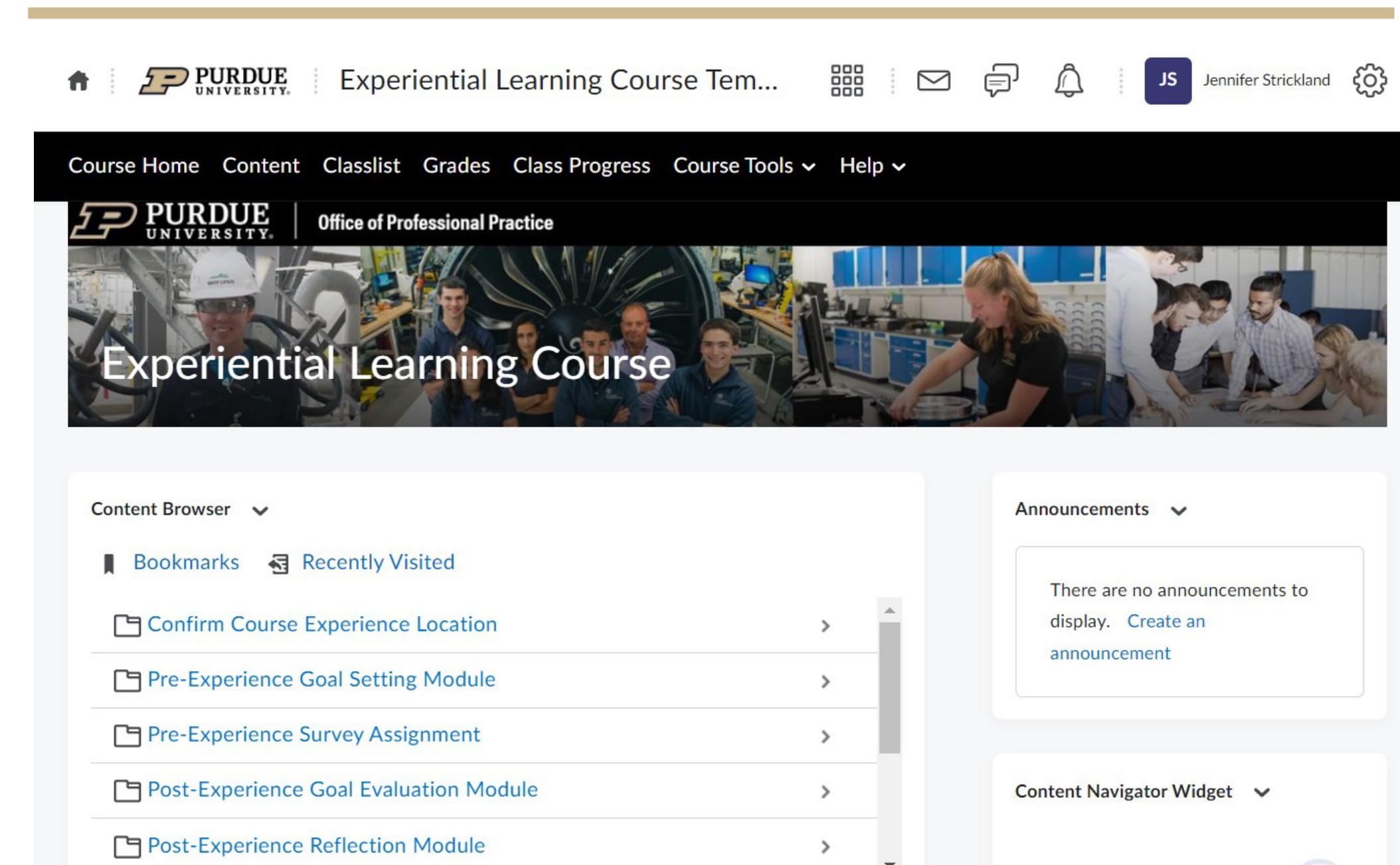
Time was spent updating Purdue's co-op/internship and global co-op experience courses via implementation of a digital survey, universal course sequencing and a universal template in Brightspace that instructors tied to co-op/internship courses could utilize.

This included gathering feedback from students, meetings with the School of Engineering Education to develop meaningful reflection prompts, meetings with co-op coordinators from various disciplines and collaborations with Institutional Data (iDA+A) at Purdue University to develop a centralized tool to collect and report on professional work experiences.



PROBLEM STATEMENT

When participating in the rotational co-op model, students felt they were writing the same report in repetition each time. Each work session requires registering for a 0-credit course that has a \$400 associated fee. With much information subject to non-disclosure agreements, students felt this was surface level and wanted more value.



DELIVERABLES: OLD VS NEW

Since the 1950's, data was collected via paper and pen. Minor updates were made to switch to PDF.

Moving to a digital space for record keeping allows for more meaningful data collection.



Purdue's Co-op Program is ranked #7 in the nation via U.S. News & World Report.

Co-op is a voluntary & rotational program, where students are required to complete a minimum of three work sessions to earn a degree certificate (equivalent to about one year of professional work experience).

PROJECT METHOD

This comprehensive survey tool was developed via Qualtrics to capture student information. The Brightspace course template, which instructors could copy and implement into their classes, was created for universal distribution. Easily navigated by all, it is full of content including valuable self-reflection and critical analysis, standardized data collection across various disciplines, goal setting, resume preparation and more. A syllabus was developed (also universal), including course schedule, development resources and more.

MEASUREABLE DATA

With administration of the survey and course template, reporting on several elements related to the co-op can be captured. Meaningful reflection is recorded on teamwork, ethics, leadership & more, along with employer feedback on student work and student performance throughout the professional work experience.



PROJECT IMPACT

During summer of 2022, the new course was implemented, **impacting 750 students and 17 co-op coordinators**. The data allows reporting related to the co-op experience; average salaries by discipline, company benefits, job titles, locations, etc. Support was received from high level administration, including the Office of Institutional Data. The results will have a data dashboard shared at large.



PROJECT FUTURE PLANS

Data dashboards will be created for reporting work experiences. Reports will assess where students are excelling, have room for growth (according to employers) and will tell the story of which employers are providing worthwhile work experiences (from a student perspective). The ultimate goal is to have a university-wide culture of recording & reflecting on experiences.

CONTRIBUTORS:

Jenny Strickland, Amanda George, Madison Bird, Purdue Co-op Coordinators, Purdue College of Engineering, Purdue Office of Institutional Data, Purdue School of Engineering Education

References: Purdue University College of Engineering, Office of Professional Practice, Reflection Topics via School of Engineering Education, Co-op Student Data & U.S. News & World Report