

The Institute for Embodied Learning: A Study on the Impact of the Enneagram on Student Learning

The proper use [of education] is to enable citizens to live lives that are economically, politically, socially, and culturally responsible. This cannot be done by gathering or "accessing" what we now call "information" ...A proper education enables young people to put their lives in order, which means knowing what things are more important than other things; it means putting first things first.

-Wendell Berry

In an increasingly information-driven society, the classroom can seem less and less relevant to students. When free information can be accessed anywhere by anyone, why even go into a classroom? This project will help students explore how our humanity is entirely relevant and present the classroom, transforming the classroom into a place for discovery, not just of isolated ideas, but also of the realities present in the community of the classroom and our own personal realities. This project proposes using a tool called the Enneagram to help people reflect on the motivations that push each person to action. It provides language for nine specific types of fears and desires that undergird thinking, feeling, and intuition, and provides extra help to understand how and when these fears and desires can be healthy and unhealthy. By giving students a common way to talk about what motivates them, we hope to provide a tool to contextualize their learning and reflect on their learning process, including the circumstantial and motivational biases that often lead them to particular questions, conversations and conclusions. In so doing, we hope to provide a path to putting the idiosyncratic, layered, and complicated human student back in the classroom, and create a space for honest engagement.

Investigators: Anne Dimond, Dr. Faith Kurtyka, Liz Ivkovich

Participants: 20 Students

Anne Dimond, Co-principal Investigator

AnneDimond@creighton.edu

402.280.3185

Dr. Faith Kurtyka, Co-principal Investigator

FaithKurtyka@creighton.edu

402.280.3508

Liz Ivkovich