Real Work is Better than Homework

Thursday, September 19, 9:45 a.m. - 11:30 a.m.
MSU Union, Ballroom
(Registration at 9:45 a.m.; program begins at 10:00 a.m.)

The more authentic a task is (“real work”), the better it can capture the complexity of the enduring skills we want students to learn. Examples will be provided of how we have designed assignments according to our six “real work” principles, as well as how research has allowed us to understand the educational outcomes. Those attending the seminar should gain (a) a sense of how authentic materials from their field might be used to construct new types of assignments, and (b) how student-generated instructional materials can be used in a class.

Designing Around Real Work in STEM Disciplines

Thursday, September 19, 1:15 p.m. - 4:00 p.m.
Kellogg Center, Big Ten C
(Registration at 1:15 p.m.; program begins at 1:30 p.m.)

“Real Work” principles are a way to think about designing assignments that feature one or more of the following strategies: (a) use of authentic sources; (b) balance of team and individual work; (c) peer presentation, review, and critique; (d) integration of student-generated instructional materials; (e) student use of instructional technologies; and (f) a balance of convergent and divergent tasks. Based on examples, participants will be asked to consider how these principles might be used to modify assignments in their own teaching practices. Those attending the workshop should leave with a draft of 1-2 assignments that illustrate some subset of the six Real Work principles.