

## Promoting Belonging in Collaborative Evaluation within Education

### Student Perspectives

“no matter how many people are in the room or anything, it's it's about the human connection, right?”

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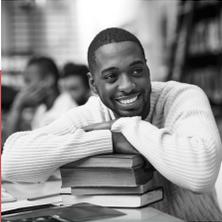
## What is sense of belonging?

- The feeling of being accepted and valued by your environment and peers<sup>1</sup>
- A fundamental human need<sup>2</sup>
- Multiple pathways to achieve belonging<sup>3</sup>

1. Psychological Science, Vol.117 (3), p.487  
2. Psychological Review, 55, 370  
3. Perspectives on Psychological Science, 1(3), 220

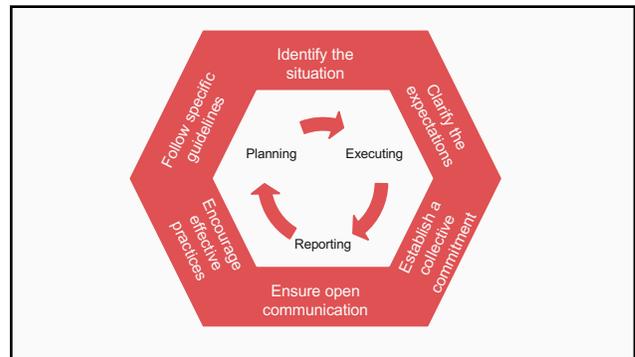
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## WHY IS SENSE OF BELONGING IMPORTANT?



- Persistence in STEM remains a problem
- Brief social belonging intervention improves well-being (Walton & Cohen, 2011)
- Predicts first-year undergraduates' performance and attrition (A Fink, RF Frey, ED Solomon, 2020)

3



4

## Establishing a collective commitment



- Establish...
  - Shared vision
  - Recommendations for positive actions
  - Means for conflict resolution
  - Decision-making procedures
  - Reward options

5

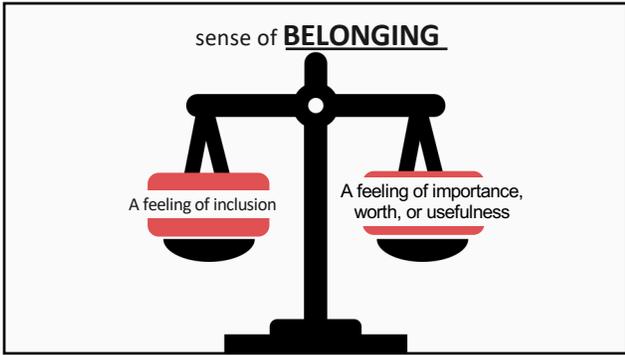
## Lessons learned from chemistry



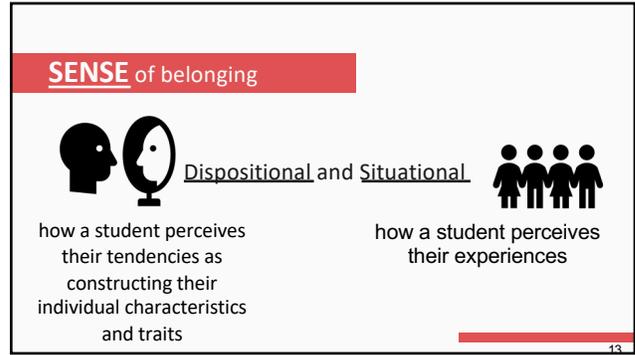
- Chemistry is part of transitional period<sup>1</sup>
- Sense of Belonging is highly context specific<sup>2</sup>

1. Journal of Career Development & Student Success, 1(1), 18  
2. Journal of Career Development, 1(1), 10  
3. Chemical Education Research, 21(1), 371

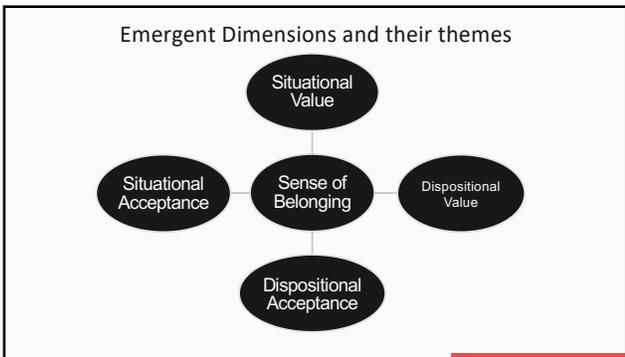
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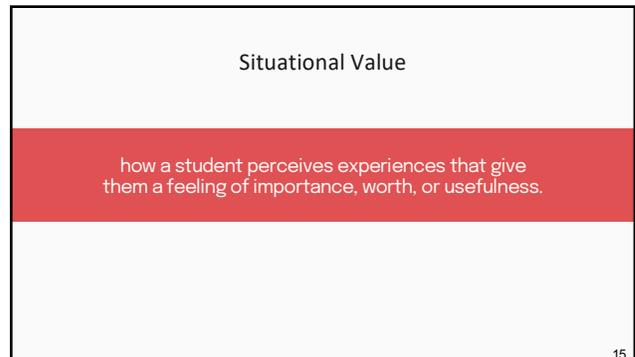
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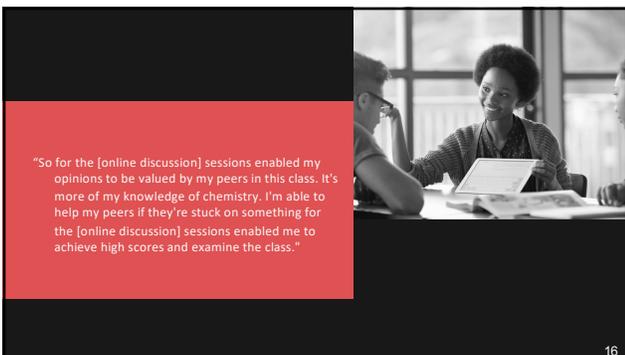
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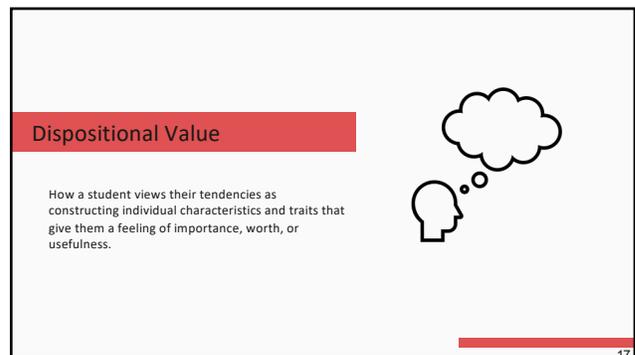
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15



16



17

### Dispositional Value

"I think I just put like good scores is more applicable 'cause I'm pretty good like in this class [sic] like I took chemistry last year in high school and it's like really, really similar to this class. So it's like pretty easy for me".

18

### Dispositional Acceptance

How a student views their tendencies as constructing individual characteristics and traits that give them a feeling of inclusion.

19

Interviewer: And how do you feel about telling people about grades? What's that culture?

Interviewee: I would do it if I was in a room filled with really smart people and I know that I really worked hard and I wanna show it off. But I know there could be people who are really struggling with chemistry and I don't wanna kind of rub it on their face that I got a better mark than than them. So I just don't tell my marks.

20

### Situational Acceptance



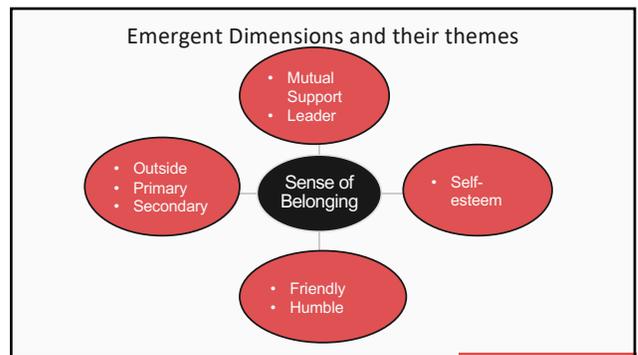
how a student perceives experiences that give them a feeling of inclusion.

21



"At a certain point, it feels like that it like here, but you're not alone, but you're alone, right? So when you're having that someone who's just right by you and you're like, ...I have someone right here who could help me and I could help them vice versa, you know...so that's basically how I've said like a simple text like hey, do you know what we're talking about here and there?"

22



23

Implications for program evaluation

- Importance for collectively committing to our experiences and backgrounds
  - Ownership through specified roles
  - Authority for achieving goals
  - Regularly revisit your established commitment
  - Acknowledging that we don't know the full story

24

Acknowledgements

19 Interviewees  
Dr. Scott Lewis  
My lab and my friends  
Dr. Liliانا Rodriguez  
Equality Evaluations



25

QUESTIONS?

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26