



THE COMMON PROBLEM PROJECT

PROBLEM BASED LEARNING

A COLLABORATION IN INNOVATIVE TEACHING PRACTICES



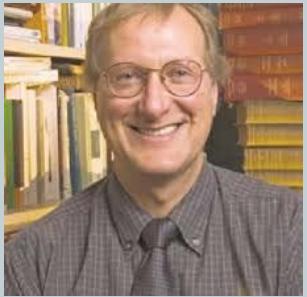
Cortland
SUNY

SUNY
ONEONTA

Plattsburgh
STATE UNIVERSITY OF NEW YORK

The logo for SUNY Oswego features a white icon of a building with a tower and a flag on top. To the right of the icon, the word 'OSWEGO' is written in a large, white, serif font. Below 'OSWEGO', the text 'STATE UNIVERSITY OF NEW YORK' is written in a smaller, white, sans-serif font.

Common Problem Leadership Team



James Liszka, Senior Scholar, Institute for Ethics in Public Life, Plattsburgh



Bruce Mattingly, Dean Arts and Sciences, Cortland



Leigh Wilson, Director of the Interdisciplinary Programs and Activities Center, Oswego



Kjersti VanSlyke-Briggs, Professor of English Education, Oneonta



Becky Kasper, Director of the Center for Teaching Excellence, Plattsburgh



Funded by:

2015: Teagle Foundation \$25K Planning Grant

2016: SUNY Investment & Performance Fund \$250K

2017: National Science Foundation \$293K. Grant # 1712227

The Common Problem Pedagogy has a simple design:

**Faculty from different disciplines
work together with a community
partner on a problem of common
interest.**

**Faculty coordinate their relevant classes so
that students can work as cross-
disciplinary teams to analyze the problem
and propose solutions**

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**Engagement with
community partners on a
problem that is relevant to
the community**

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Pairings of classes for interdisciplinary collaboration

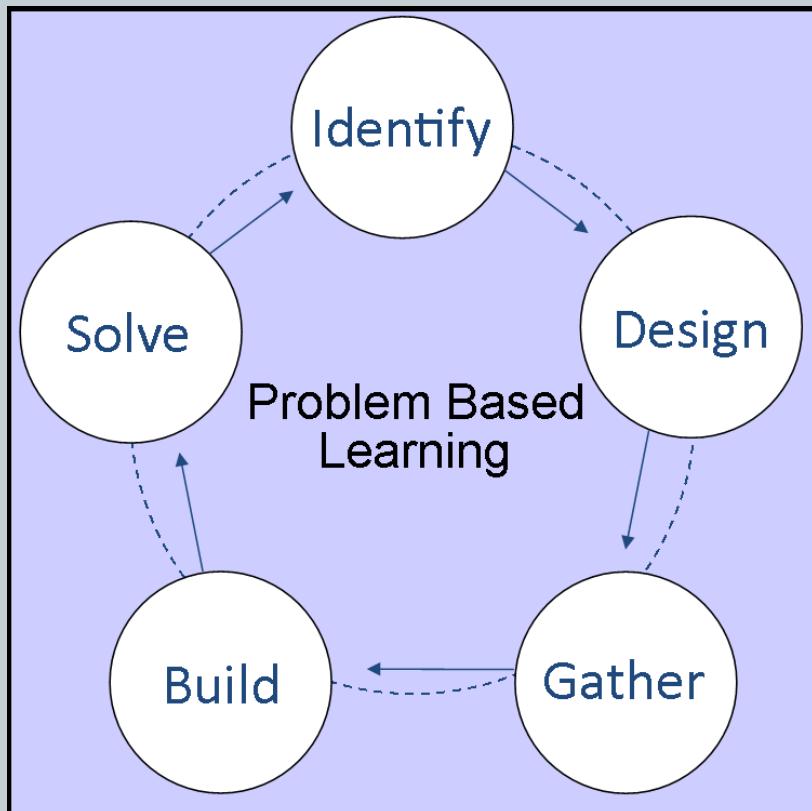




Two Learning Outcomes are emphasized:

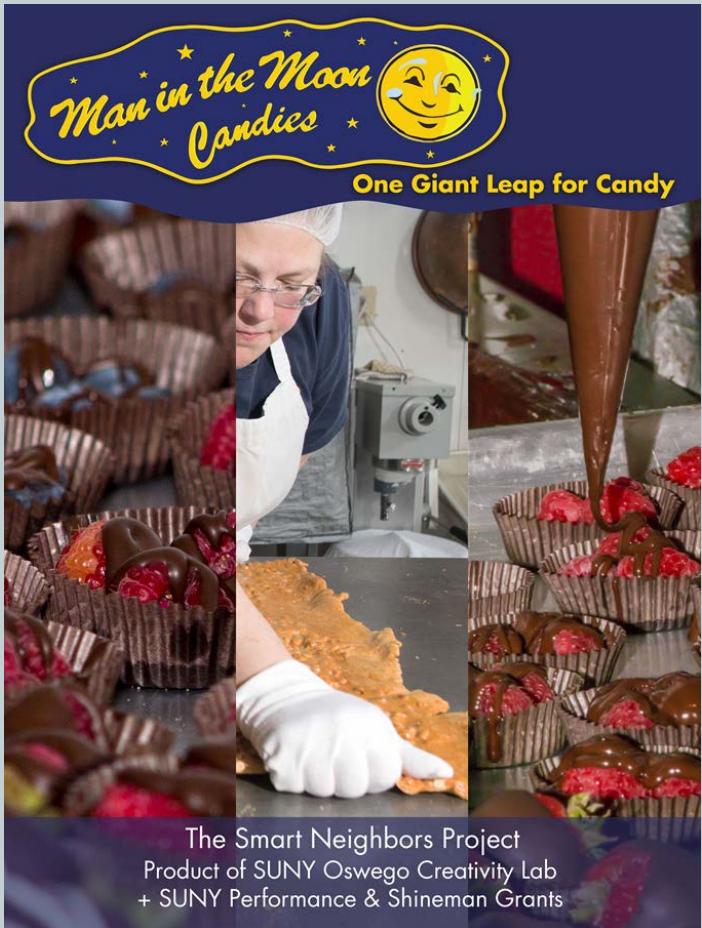
- **Identify scope of ill-structured problem, determine its causes, and construct and assess possible solutions.**

- **Incorporate insights of other disciplines in constructing meaningful solutions to problems.**



Problem Based learning is

- **Student centered**
- **Challenging for both students and instructors**
- **Focused on ill-structured problems**
- **Less concerned about a product than the process**



OSWEGO'S SMART NEIGHBORS PROJECT

The SMART NEIGHBOR project is focusing on the problem of getting neighbors in the community to buy local.

To date, the partnership involves over 23 local businesses, the Oswego Chamber of Commerce, 15 faculty and nearly 400 students in more than 20 courses.

OSWEGO'S SMART NEIGHBORS PROJECT

“As students, this project helps us step out of our comfort zones. We forget that a huge part of why we’re here is networking and getting out into the community. This project gives us the confidence to do that.” —student Emily Shaben

Courses involved:

- Creative writing
- Film-making
- Art
- Marketing
- Sculpture

PLATTSBURGH'S FILM AND SUSTAINABILITY PROJECT



Dr. Curt Gervich and Dr. Mike Devine

Working with community members to produce films on local sustainability issues

Courses involved:

- **English**
- **Environmental Sciences**



Nathan Winans
co-director of
Power

**“I learned how
hidden poverty
can be”**

PLATTSBURGH’S FILM AND SUSTAINABILITY PROJECT

The student film *Power*, about homelessness, was shown in the 2017 Lake Champlain International Film Festival, and considered for the Lake Placid Film Festival.

***A Day in the Life* explores the hidden economic links between student waste and the impoverished who recycle it.**

ONEONTA'S ENVIRONMENT AND SCHOOL COMPOSTING PROJECT



Working with the local school district on issues related to atmospheric changes and the impact on school composting programs.

Courses involved:

- Literature
- Astronomy

CORTLAND'S MIGRATION IN THE CORTLAND COMMUNITY



Students in the Migrations group during one of their collaborative meeting sessions

The project considered ways to better integrate refugees into the community. How best to meet the needs of the new migrants and to address concerns and misconceptions by local residents about the refugees .

Courses involved:

- **Childhood Education**
- **History**
- **Political Science**



**For more information on the Common Problem
Problem contact:**

James Liszka:

James.Liszka@Plattsburgh.edu

Becky Kasper

Kasperrb@Plattsburgh.edu

