

An Expectancy Theory Based Instrument Assessing Relationships Between Faculty Dispositions and Use of Student-Centered Strategie-

Dr. Eugene Judson, Arizona State University

Eugene Judson is an Associate Professor of for the Mary Lou Fulton Teachers College at Arizona State University. He also serves as an Extension Services Consultant for the National Center for Women and Information Technology (NCWIT). His past experiences include having been a middle school science teacher, Director of Academic and Instructional Support for the Arizona Department of Education, a research scientist for the Center for Research on Education in Science, Mathematics, Engineering and Technology (CRESMET), and an evaluator for several NSF projects. His first research strand concentrates on the relationship between educational policy and STEM education. His second research strand focuses on studying STEM classroom interactions and subsequent effects on student understanding. He is a co-developer of the Reformed Teaching Observation Protocol (RTOP) and his work has been cited more than 1800 times and his publications have been published in multiple peer-reviewed journals such as Science Education and the Journal of Research in Science Teaching.

Lydia Ross, Arizona State University

Lydia Ross is a doctoral student and graduate research assistant at Arizona State University. She is a second year student in the Educational Policy and Evaluation program. Her research interests focus on higher education access, equity, and inclusion.

Prof. Stephen J. Krause, Arizona State University

Stephen Krause is professor in the Materials Science Program in the Fulton School of Engineering at Arizona State University. He teaches in the areas of introductory materials engineering, polymers and composites, and capstone design. His research interests include evaluating conceptual knowledge, misconceptions and technologies to promote conceptual change. He has co-developed a Materials Concept Inventory and a Chemistry Concept Inventory for assessing conceptual knowledge and change for introductory materials science and chemistry classes. He is currently conducting research on an NSF faculty development program based on evidence-based teaching practices. The overall goal is to develop disciplinary communities of practice across the college of engineering. The approach is being promoted through semester-long faculty workshops and then through a semester of supported implementation of faculty classroom innovations. Changes in faculty beliefs and classroom practice should positively impact student performance and retention. He was a coauthor for the best paper award at the FIE convention in 2009 and the best paper award in the Journal of Engineering Education in 2013.

Prof. James A. Middleton, Arizona State University

James A. Middleton is Professor of Mechanical and Aerospace Engineering and Director of the Center for Research on Education in Science, Mathematics, Engineering, and Technology at Arizona State University. For the last three years he also held the Elmhurst Energy Chair in STEM education at the University of Birmingham in the UK. Previously, Dr. Middleton was Associate Dean for Research in the Mary Lou Fulton College of Education at Arizona State University, and Director of the Division of Curriculum and Instruction. He received his Ph.D. in Educational Psychology from the University of Wisconsin-Madison in 1992, where he also served in the National Center for Research on Mathematical Sciences Education as a postdoctoral scholar.

Dr. Casey Jane Ankeny, Arizona State University

Casey J. Ankeny, PhD is lecturer in the School of Biological and Health Systems Engineering at Arizona State University. Casey received her bachelor's degree in Biomedical Engineering from the University of Virginia in 2006 and her doctorate degree in Biomedical Engineering from Georgia Institute of Technology and Emory University in 2012 where she studied the role of shear stress in aortic valve disease. Currently, she is investigating cyber-based student engagement strategies in flipped and traditional



biomedical engineering courses. She aspires to understand and improve student attitude, achievement, and persistence in student-centered courses.

Prof. Robert J. Culbertson, Arizona State University, Department of Physics

Robert J. Culbertson is an Associate Professor of Physics. Currently, he teaches introductory mechanics and electrodynamics for physics majors and a course in musical acoustics, which was specifically designed for elementary education majors. He is director of the ASU Physics Teacher Education Coalition (PhysTEC) Project, which strives to produce more and better high school physics teachers. He is also director of Master of Natural Science degree program, a graduate program designed for in-service science teachers. He works on improving persistence of students in STEM majors, especially under-prepared students and students from under-represented groups.

Dr. Keith D. Hjelmstad, Arizona State University

Keith D. Hjelmstad is Professor of Civil Engineering in the School of Sustainable Engineering and the Built Environment at Arizona State University.

An Expectancy Theory Based Instrument Assessing Relationships Between Faculty Dispositions and Use of Student-Centered Strategies

Abstract

We present the final instrument and results from a study initially presented as an ERM Division work-in-progress at ASEE 2016. To determine relationships between dispositions and reported use of student-centered strategies, the Value, Expectancy, and Cost of Testing Educational Reforms Survey (VECTERS) was developed based on expectancy theory and tested with 286 engineering faculty among the 20 largest colleges of engineering in the U.S. The student-centered practices examined were (a) using formative feedback to adjust instruction, (b) integrating real-world applications, and (c) facilitating student-to-student discussion.

Factor analyses led to determining construct groupings of items that were generally aligned with VECTERS' design. Faculty using strategies in their classroom more often were more inclined to perceive value (particularly for students) and had greater expectation of success. Furthermore, greater use of a student-centered strategy was inversely related to perception of cost – with low use associated with perception of greater cost.

Introduction

This study began with a team of researchers wanting to assess the effect of a National Science Foundation funded professional development program for engineering faculty. Beyond typical evaluation, a goal was to delve into faculty member mindsets about particular classroom strategies that were intended to be conveyed from professional development to the classrooms.

While there exists no shortage of instruments for measuring faculty attitudes and self-reported classroom practices, the intent here was to detect not just use of practices but the attitudes toward specific practices. What was found lacking in the research literature canon was an instrument detecting dispositions about specific strategies. Because it had been informally observed that faculty members may integrate one student-centered strategy but not another, it was preferred to evaluate dispositions per strategy. Attitudes are generally considered a precursor to implementation¹; however, some literature points to how the use of classroom strategies is what drives attitudes². The practical interest was to determine if the professional development was affecting faculty dispositions about specific classroom strategies. To achieve this goal, a new instrument was developed, the Value, Expectancy, and Cost of Testing Educational Reforms Survey (VECTERS).

Relevant Literature

Student-Centered Strategies

VECTERS solicits views about the implementation of student-centered learning strategies. While there are certainly other strategies that fall under this banner, the three selected are pedagogical points promoted within the professional development. The theoretical underpinnings of the pedagogy supported by the professional development relate to tenets laid out in *How Students Learn*.³ In general, the professional development encouraged instructors to move their classrooms toward being environments where students have voice, instructors are responsive to varying student backgrounds, and relevancy between coursework and real-world applications become evident. An overview of related literature regarding the three strategies is provided.

Formative feedback. The iterative use of formal and informal assessments as a means to support a learner is valuable to the learning process.⁴ The concept of learning from one's own attempts and integrating newly developed understandings to existing schema aligns to learners using formative feedback to construct and re-construct their knowledge and skills.⁵ Much of the literature on formative feedback focuses on learners being the primary consumers of the feedback and using it to consciously improve their own understanding.⁶ In higher education the activity of formative feedback often ends with the transmission of the feedback from instructor to student, with the onus on students to make improvements.⁷

VECTERS was designed to assess formative feedback that is two-way. This implies instructors adjusting instruction based on what they learn about students' comprehension. This may take the form of immediate adaptation of instruction based on responses from electronic response systems, aka "clickers."⁸ Likewise, formative feedback may involve soliciting what students see as the "muddiest points" from a lesson followed by an instructor synthesizing these muddiest points and altering instruction for the next day.⁹ This type of instructional responsiveness has been shown to positively affect classroom dynamics as well as persistence and achievement in undergraduate engineering courses.^{10, 11}

Real-world applications. Many aspects of engineering courses can be viewed as relating to the real world. To narrow the definition, real-world applications was described as when an instructor deliberately demonstrates relevance through the integration of problems that are related to real-world problems and/or underscores connections to industry and design. Integration of pedagogy that emphasizes relevance and connections to the real-world has been shown to support student engagement, persistence, and comprehension.¹² Integration of real-world applications moves the responsibility to instructors to be explicit about the real-world application of what is being learned and to clarify how future careers integrate these skills.

Real-world connection can manifest on a large scale such as having students form design teams that address problems in the community¹³ or more ordinarily occur as deliberate lesson planning that emphasizes real-world connections in the form of contextualized problems and workplace connections.¹⁴ Real-world application can also involve demonstrating the connectedness among different disciplines or places students in the roles of collaborative problem solvers.¹⁵

Student to student discussion. When instructors attempt to make their classrooms and lecture halls more dynamic, prompting students to engage in discussion is one of the most popular strategies.¹⁶ The term *discussion* in a college classroom context can have broad interpretations. Here *discussion* is defined as student-to-student discourse that is deliberate, occurring during class time, initiated by the instructor, and focused on furthering understanding of concepts.

Although research supports the efficacy of student-to-student discussion,¹⁷ actual use of the strategy in college lecture halls has been slow to progress.¹⁸ Facilitation of discussion that minimally requires providing students with questions that fit within the context of a lesson can be quite helpful in promoting comprehension of new concepts. If students are left to their own

devices and merely encouraged to discuss with one another after class, they may not possess necessary linguistic and interactional skills needed to develop shared meaning as they would during facilitated classroom discussion.¹⁹

Expectancy Theory

From the perspective of instructors, expectancy theory frames the effort that will need to be expended in order to modify instruction. In this context, expectancy framework is based on an accounting of costs, considered value, and expectation of success.

Related to the *expectancy of success* is the *value* that individuals place on attainment of an end goal. Attainment value therefore predicts effort and determination.^{20, 21} Value is sometimes equated as a combination of the value of the input (i.e., costs) *plus* the value of the output. This combines the cost of achieving a goal with the attraction of achieving the goal. We chose to separate these elements of value. The input values are considered costs and this price tag of what someone has to give up in order to achieve a task can significantly predict decisions to pursue a goal.²²

Based on expectancy theory, implementation of an educational reform often meets limited success for one or more of three reasons: perception of low value, belief of likely to fail, and assessment of high cost. In many cases the reform is never even transferred from professional development to the classroom because an instructor believes the strategy will have little or no added value for students; or because instructors anticipate that instituting the strategy will lead to a less effective learning environment; or simply because instructors consider the expenditure of time and materials too great of a price tag to pay.

Purpose and Research Questions

The intent of this study was to pinpoint expectations and attitudes about specific teaching strategies and, in turn determine the relationship of those dispositions with the actual use of the strategies. VECTERS was constructed to enable achieving this goal and to address these research questions in the context of undergraduate engineering courses:

- 1. What is the relationship between the value placed on a student-centered teaching strategy and use of the strategy?
- 2. What is the relationship between the expectation of success with a student-centered teaching strategy and use of the strategy?
- 3. What is the relationship between the cost associated with implementing a studentcentered teaching strategy and use of the strategy?

Expectancy theory predicts positive relations for the first two research questions. The third research question raised competing hypotheses. Expectancy theory predicts that there is a negative relationship between the use of a strategy and its cost; that is, perception of lower cost leads to greater use. A competing rationale is that those using a strategy more extensively incur greater costs, and in turn would report higher costs.

Design

VECTERS Framework

VECTERS was designed to be completed by instructors and its "topics" are these three studentcentered strategies: formative feedback, real-world applications, student-to-student discussion. The constructs of VECTERS though are based on expectancy theory constructs of *value*, *expectation of success*, and *cost*.

Value. The construct of value is tied to benefit. In educational settings, the recipient of benefit is commonly seen as the students, but the beneficiary can also be instructors. Implementing a classroom strategy may be deemed as having potential benefits and negative consequences. VECTERS contains eleven value items. Eight of the value items address perceived value (negative and positive) for students; and three of the value items focus on how implementing a strategy may have direct value for the instructor.

Expectancy. The expectancy construct involves envisioning the learning environment when the strategy is implemented. These expectations are categorized by internal and external attribution types. That is, expectation of success, or lack thereof, might be attributed to students' ability to "handle" the strategy, or might be attributed to the instructor's view of their own ability to implement the strategy. Further, expectation of success can be externally attributed to the physical classroom environment – a lecture hall setting versus a small classroom, or hundreds of students versus a couple of dozen students. VECTERS contains ten expectancy items. Five of these items align with expectancy related to students, two items are focused on expectation of success due to the instructor's capacity, and three items associate expectancy of success with the physical environment or the actual content itself.

Cost. Cost items address the perceived expenditures of implementing a classroom strategy. VECTERS includes five cost items. Among these five items, three address time costs, one item addresses the cost of teaching assistants, and one addresses the cost of overall effort in implementing a strategy.

Overall Design

The 26 value, expectancy, and cost items are a mix of both negative and positive statements to which respondents indicate level of agreement on a Likert four-point scale. Participants respond to the 26 items for each of the three classroom strategies (formative feedback, real-world applications, and initiating student-to-student discussions), thus yielding 78 datum points. See the appendix for VECTERS layout. It is noted that this layout was influenced by the work of Abrami, Poulsen, and Chambers²³ who developed the cooperative learning implementation questionnaire (CLIQ) to assess relationships between K-12 teacher dispositions and use of cooperative learning.

VECTERS additionally contains questions to collect respondents' demographic information as well as general information about the courses respondents are reflecting upon. Instructor information includes information such as gender, ethnicity, and years of experience. Course information includes items to indicate the course-level (100 to 400), whether the course is required, and the number of students typically enrolled.

Method

Sample

An invitation to complete the survey was sent to 19 of the 20 largest colleges of engineering in the United States, as acknowledged by the American Society of Engineering Education.²⁴ (One of the 20 largest colleges is the authors' institution and was omitted since several of those faculty members would be requested to complete a subsequent version of VECTERS at a later date.

Engineering faculty members were invited via email to complete VECTERS online. The invitation was sent to the email addresses of approximately 6300 engineering faculty members. who taught undergraduate engineering courses. A total of 286 responses were received. While the total amount of responses received was suitable to conduct reliability and validity testing, the response rate was low. Unfortunately, it is not possible to determine the exact response rate because the request was sent to all available email addresses of engineering faculty members listed on college websites and many of those email addresses were associated with faculty who do not teach undergraduate courses.

Coding

VECTERS includes a mix of both positive and negative statements. Therefore, data received from the respondents were adjusted so that all values among the 78 items were aligned. That is, data from negatively worded value and expectancy items were adjusted so that a 4 on the 1 to 4 scales indicated perception of high value or high expectancy of success. Likewise, data from cost items that implied high expenditure (e.g., implementing this strategy takes too much preparation time) were adjusted so that a response of 4 indicated the respondent viewed cost as being high.

Internal Consistency

Reliability of VECTERS was assessed by calculating Cronbach's alpha coefficients. The Cronbach's alpha coefficient was first determined across all 26-items for all three strategies (i.e., 78 items collectively). However, VECTERS can be considered as three sub-instruments addressing the strategies of formative feedback, real-world applications, and student-to-student discussion. Therefore, Cronbach's alpha coefficient calculations were applied to each of the three sub-instruments. As recommended by DeVellis,²⁵ Cronbach's alpha levels of 0.7 or higher were desired.

Construct validity

VECTERS construct validity was evaluated by examining relationships between respondents' self-reports of extent to which the three strategies are (1) currently being implemented, and (2) are planned to be implemented. The supposition was that those scoring higher on VECTERS' value and expectancy items would be more likely to currently be integrating a classroom strategy and would be more likely to plan on using the strategy in the future (either initiating or continuing to use). Regarding costs, a cost-increases-with-usage hypothesis was supposed by some on the research team even though expectancy theory supported the cost-decreases-with-usage hypothesis.

Construct validity was further examined by applying orthogonal (varimax) rotation factor analysis. Analysis was applied to VECTERS' three sub-tests (formative feedback, real-world applications, and student-to-student discussion). This supported the item reduction analysis and the resulting final version of VECTERS (Appendix).

Relationships among Variables

A series of Pearson correlation tests were completed to determine relationships among the variables, as defined by the research questions. These were applied for each of the three classroom strategies between aggregate mean scores on VECTERS in the areas of value, expectation of success, and cost with the amount of time an instructor reported (a) currently using the strategy and (b) planned to use the strategy in the future.

Results

The internal consistency reliability for VECTERS items was high (Cronbach's $\alpha = .90$). Cronbach's alpha values for formative feedback, real-world applications, and student-to-student discussion (0.83, 0.76, 0.82, respectively) were all above 0.7 thus implying acceptable reliability.

Mean responses regarding the extent to which respondents used a particular strategy, now and in the future, were calculated. Faculty members indicated if they were using or planned to use each of the three strategies from "not at all" (value = 1) to "entirely" (value = 4). Results indicated real-world applications were used most often, with the other two strategies approximately equivalent in use (Table 1).

	Formativ	e Feedback	Real-world	Applications	Student-to-student discussion					
	Mean	Std. Dev.	Mean Std. Dev.		Mean	Std. Dev.				
Current use	2.45	.90	3.15	.80	2.58	1.1				
Future use	2.69	.91	3.31	.73	2.83	1.0				

Table 1. Current and future use of specific classroom strategies.

Table 2 provides correlations between mean scores for the constructs of value, expectancy and cost, per each classroom strategy, with the reported level of implementation of the strategy both now and planned for the future.

		<u> </u>					
		Value	Expectancy	Cost			
Formative	Current use	.60**	.53**	37**			
feedback	Future use	.62**	.50**	32**			
Real world	Current use	.44**	.34**	27**			
application	Future use	.40**	.25**	13*			
Student to	Current use	.60**	.56**	45**			
student	Euturo uso	60**	50**	40**			
discussion	ruture use	.00	.38***	40***			
* significant a	t () ()5 level	** significant at 0.01 level					

Table 2. Correlations (r-value): Implementation with VECTERS Constructs

significant at 0.05 level

significant at 0.01 level

The relationships met predictions for value and expectancy. Among all three classroom strategies, instructors' reported use of the strategy was positively correlated to their dispositions regarding the value of the strategy and their expectation of success. The first of these positive relationships implies that instructors who believe a strategy has value for their students and for themselves uses that strategy more often. Similarly, instructors who expect successful implementation of a strategy are more inclined to use that strategy. The negative relationships found between cost and reported usage met expectations of expectancy theory. These negative relationships imply that higher use correlates with diminished view of the cost of integration.

Because the constructs of value and expectancy were comprised of items that could be further categorized, we conducted an exploratory correlation analysis. Bivariate analyses were examined between the sub-classifications with reported current implementation and with planned implementation. The subcategories and example items are provided in Table 3. Because there were only five cost items and these were considered cohesive, no cost subcategories were isolated.

Construct	Sub-category	n	Example item				
Value	value for students		Using this strategy/tool fosters positive student attitudes towards learning.				
	value for self	3	Using this strategy/tool aids my career.				
	based on students		My students lack the skills necessary to effectively use this strategy/tool.				
Expectation of success	based on instructor's ability		My knowledge of this strategy/tool is sufficient to implement it successfully.				
	based on the physical environment		The physical set-up of my classroom is an obstacle to using this strategy/tool.				

Table 3. Subcategories of Value and Expectancy Items

Only correlations between subcategories and implementation (current use and planned use) that were as strong, or stronger than the correlations found among the complete categories, conveyed in Table 2, are reported here. The greatest predictor for current use (r = 0.6) and planned use (r = 0.61) of formative feedback was the subcategory of seeing value for students. Similarly, current use (r = .48) and planned use (r = .46) of real-world applications was best predicted by seeing it as valuable for students. This finding was consistent for facilitating student-to-student discussions which was also best predicted by seeing value for students (use now, r = .61; planned use, r = .62).

Exploratory factor analysis

Factor analysis was applied to VECTERS' three sub-tests. Based on guidelines²⁶ of retaining all factors with eigenvalues greater than 1, initial analysis of eigenvalues and the scree plots suggested retaining five factors for formative feedback, accounting for 59.5% of the variance; eight factors for real-world applications, accounting for 65.5% of the variance; and five factors for student-to-student discussion, accounting for 61.6% of the variance. Six factors were retained for real-world applications because the seventh and eighth factors did not contain at least two

items loading at a level of 0.6 or above. The total variance accounted for by the six factors for real-world applications was 55.0%.

The strongest VECTERS items for each of the three sub-tests are provided in Tables 4, 5, and 6. The factors are presented across the three tests as A1, A2, A3 . . . B1, B2, . . C1 . . . etc. Items in the third columns are in order of descending relative strength. Because some, but not all, expectancy and value items were negatively worded and consequently reverse coded, where appropriate, phrases such as "disagrees that strategy . . .," have been included in Tables 4, 5, and 6 to indicate item direction.

	Cumulative	
Factor	Variance %	Items Loading Strongest on this Factor
		Expectancy – <i>disagrees that strategy</i> will not work with my students
A1	16.9%	Value – <i>disagrees that strategy</i> hinders ability to fairly assess students
		Expectancy – disagrees that strategy may make class too chaotic
12	32.8	Value – motivates students
		Value – helps students obtain deeper understanding
A2		Value – increases student comprehension
		Value – promotes valuable collegiality among students
	44.2	Cost – takes too much prep time
12		Cost – requires a lot of effort
AS		Cost – difficult to implement without specialized materials
		Cost – requires considerable use of TAs
A /	52.0	Expectancy – I understand this strategy well enough to implement successfully
A4		Expectancy – My knowledge of this strategy is sufficient to successfully implement
۸.5	50.5	Value – using this strategy aids my career
AD	39.3	Value – is aligned with goals of my college and university

Table 4. Formative Feedback, Factor Analysis

	Cumulative	
Factor	Variance %	Items Loading Strongest on this Factor
		Value – the strategy is a valuable instructional approach
B1	15.4%	Expectancy – <i>disagree that strategy</i> interferes with actual learning
DI	13.470	Expectancy – <i>disagrees that strategy</i> will not work with my students
		Value – <i>disagrees that strategy</i> hinders learning of bright students
	25.9	Cost – takes too much prep time
DJ		Cost – requires a lot of effort
D2		Cost – difficult to implement without specialized materials
		Cost – requires considerable use of TAs
D2 24.1		Value – increases student comprehension
DO	54.1	Value – motivates students
D4	41 7	Expectancy – My knowledge of this strategy is sufficient to successfully implement
D4	41./	Expectancy – I understand this strategy well enough to implement successfully
D5	48.6	Value – using this strategy aids my career
ВЭ		Value – is aligned with goals of my college and university
DC	55.0	Expectancy – <i>disagrees that</i> physical set-up of my classroom is an obstacle
D0		Expectancy – <i>disagrees that</i> there are too many students to implement successfully

Table 5. Real-world Applications, Factor Analysis

Table 6. Student-to-Student Discussions, Factor Analysis

	Cumulative	
Factor	Variance %	Items Loading Strongest on this Factor
		Value – motivates students
C1	19.4%	Value – increases student comprehension
		Value – fosters positive attitudes towards learning
		Value – promotes valuable collegiality among students
		Expectancy – <i>disagrees that strategy</i> will not work with my students
C^{2}	35.2	Expectancy – disagrees that strategy interferes with actual learning
C2		Expectancy – <i>disagrees that strategy</i> inappropriate for the subject taught
		Expectancy – disagrees that students lack necessary skills to be effective
		Cost – takes too much prep time
C 2	47.4	Cost – difficult to implement without specialized materials
C5		Cost – requires considerable use of TAs
		Cost – requires a lot of effort
C_{4}	55.2	Expectancy – My knowledge of this strategy is sufficient to successfully implement
C4		Expectancy – I understand this strategy well enough to implement successfully
C5	61.6	Expectancy – <i>disagrees that</i> physical set-up of my classroom is an obstacle
C.S	01.0	Expectancy – <i>disagrees that</i> there are too many students to implement successfully

Examination of the factor analyses led to themes becoming evident. A dimension termed "functionality" is represented in factors A1, B1, and C2. These three factors share many items that point toward a belief that the strategy simply will work with students and a dismissal of the notion that the strategy somehow interferes with learning.

Also cutting across all three strategies is a dimension referred to as "expense." The expense dimension is represented by factors A3, B2, and C3. The only cost item that did not load heavily in the expense dimension was the statement that "there is too little time available during class to

implement this strategy effectively." This statement had a loading factor of approximately 0.4; however, the other four items had consistent loading factors of 0.7 to 0.8. The implication here is that the commodity of class time is viewed differently than the cost of out-of-class expenditures such as teaching assistants (TAs), materials, and preparation time.

A third dimension across all three strategies is termed "student benefit." This is represented by factors A2, B3, and C1. This dimension corresponds to the sentiment that using a strategy will aid student comprehension and motivate students. The variance explained by the student benefit dimension ranges considerably from 8.2% for real-world applications to 19.4% for student-to-student discussion. This range may be due to relative strengths of other dimensions or that the use of formative feedback and student-to-student discussion are seen as having more immediate benefit for students than integration of real-world applications. Also, the more common use of real-world applications may be diluting and demoting the relative view of its benefit for students.

A dimension of "personal ability" also cut across all three strategies and is represented by factors A4, B4, and C4. Finally, other dimensions that cut across at least two of the strategies but accounting for comparatively less of the variance than those listed above are the following. Factors A5 and B5 represent a dimension of "job expectation" and factors B6 and C5 represent a dimension of "physical environment."

Conclusion

In this study strong relationships were found between the use of a student-centered strategy and a faculty member's disposition about that strategy. This supports the theoretical framework of expectancy theory and underscore how attitudes and perceptions can act as gatekeepers. An implication here is that effective professional development must address not just the logistics and mechanics of integrating classroom lessons, but must tackle the difficulty of affecting attitude.

The relationship between implementation and perception of cost was aligned with the costdecreases-with-usage hypothesis. The relationship indicates that using a strategy is negatively related to perception of high cost. This finding aligns to research indicating that when people perceive a reform to have first-order barriers (i.e., external cost) they are less likely to implement; however users of a reform tend to minimize first-order barriers and focus on more important second-order barriers such as views about effectiveness and potential for success.

VECTERS is seen has having two useful future roles. First, as a diagnostic tool for faculty members. This need not be limited to engineering faculty since the three classroom strategies (formative feedback, real-world applications, and student-to-student discussion) are supported across multiple disciplines. Researchers adapting the instrument for their needs may choose to reduce and/or interchange the topics and then evaluate if the new instrument persists with sufficient reliability and validity strength.

A second useful role for VECTERS may be as a tool to facilitate discussion about teaching. Having meaningful discourse about the specifics of value, expectation, and cost, enriches dialogue. This type of deeper discussion aids instructors in developing introspection regarding their own beliefs and perceived obstacles of implementation.

Acknowledgment

The authors gratefully acknowledge support of this work by the National Science Foundation under Grant No. 1524527

References

- 1. Czerniak, C. M., & Lumpe, A. T. (1996). Relationship between teacher beliefs and science education reform. *Journal of Science Teacher Education*, 7(4), 247-266.
- 2. Valente, T. W., Paredes, P., & Poppe, P. R. (1998). Matching the message to the process the relative ordering of knowledge, attitudes, and practices in behavior change research. *Human communication research*, *24*(3), 366-385.
- 3. Branford, J. D., & Donovan, S. M. (2005). How students learn: history, mathematics, and science in the classroom. *National Academies Press, Washington*.
- 4. Sadler, D. R. (1998) Formative assessment: revisiting the territory, *Assessment in Education*, *5*(1), 77–84.
- 5. Butler, D. L. & Winne, P. H. (1995) Feedback and self-regulated learning: a theoretical synthesis, *Review of Educational Research*, *65*(3), 245–281.
- 6. Yorke, M (2003) Formative assessment in higher education: moves towards theory and thenhancement of pedagogic practice. *Higher Education*, *45*(4), 477–501.
- 7. Nicol, D. J., & Macfarlane-Dick, D. (2006). Formative assessment and self-regulated learning: A model and seven principles of good feedback practice. *Studies in Higher Education*, *31*(2), 199-218.
- 8. Judson, E. & Sawada, D. (2002). Learning from past and present: Electronic response systems in college lecture halls. *Journal of Computers in Mathematics and Science Teaching*, 21(2), 167-181.
- Krause, S. J., Baker, D. R., Carberry, A. R., Koretsky, M., Brooks, B. J., Gilbuena, D., ... & Ankeny, C. J. (2013). Muddiest point formative feedback in core materials classes with YouTube, Blackboard, class warm-ups and word clouds. In *Proceedings of the 2013 American Society for Engineering Education Annual Conference & Exposition*.
- Krause, S. J., Baker, D. R., Carberry, A. R., Alford, T. L., Ankeny, J., Koretsky, M., ... & Chan, C. K. (2014). Characterizing and addressing student learning issues and misconceptions (SLIMs) in materials science with muddiest point reflections and fast formative feedback. In 121st ASEE Annual Conference and Exposition: 360 Degrees of Engineering Education. American Society for Engineering Education.
- 11. Bairaktarova, D., Pilotte, M., & Tetzloff, I. (2014, October). Relevance-based learning in students' early engineering education experience. In 2014 IEEE Frontiers in Education Conference (FIE) Proceedings (pp. 1-3). IEEE.
- 12. Coyle, E. J., Jamieson, L. H., & Oakes, W. C. (2005). EPICS: Engineering projects in community service. *International Journal of Engineering Education*, 21(1), 139-150.

- 13. Jonassen, D., Strobel, J., & Lee, C. B. (2006). Everyday problem solving in engineering: Lessons for engineering educators. *Journal of Engineering Education*, *95*(2), 139-151.
- 14. Dunsmore, K., Turns, J., & Yellin, J. M. (2011). Looking toward the real world: Student conceptions of engineering. *Journal of Engineering Education*,100(2), 329-348.
- 15. Dallimore, E. J., Hertenstein, J. H., & Platt, M. B. (2004). Classroom participation and discussion effectiveness: Student-generated strategies. *Communication Education*, 53(1), 103-115.
- 16. Garside, C. (1996). Look who's talking: A comparison of lecture and group discussion teaching strategies in developing critical thinking skills. *Communication Education*, 45(3), 212-227.
- 17. Watts, M., & Becker, W. E. (2008). A little more than chalk and talk: Results from a third national survey of teaching methods in undergraduate economics courses. *The Journal of Economic Education*, *39*(3), 273-286.
- 18. Ellis, R. A., Goodyear, P., Calvo, R. A., & Prosser, M. (2008). Engineering students' conceptions of and approaches to learning through discussions in face-to-face and online contexts. *Learning and Instruction*, *18*(3), 267-282.
- 19. Shah, J., & Higgins, E. T. (1997). Expectancy x value effects: Regulatory focus as determinant of magnitude and direction. *Journal of personality and social psychology*, *73*(3), 447.
- 20. Shu, T. M., & Lam, S. F. (2011). Are success and failure experiences equally motivational? An investigation of regulatory focus and feedback. *Learning and Individual Differences*, *21*(6), 724-727.
- Wigfield, A., Tonks, S., & Eccles, J. S. (2004). Expectancy-value theory in cross-cultural perspective. In D. M. McInerney & S. Van Etten (Eds.), Research on sociocultural influences on motivation and learning, Vol. 4: Big theories revisited (pp. 165-198). Greenwich, CT: Information Age Publishing.
- 22. Abrami, P. C., Poulsen, C., & Chambers, B. (2004). Teacher motivation to implement an educational innovation: Factors differentiating users and non-users of cooperative learning. *Educational Psychology*, *24*(2), 201-216.
- 23. Yoder, B. (2014). Engineering by the numbers. ASEE (American Society of Engineering Educators). Retrieved from <u>https://www.asee.org/papers-and-publications/publications/14_11-47.pdf</u>
- 24. DeVellis, R.F. (2003). Scale development: Theory and applications (2nd ed.), California: Sage.
- 25. Kaiser, H. F. (1960). The application of electronic computers to factor analysis. *Educational and Psychological Measurement*, 20(1), 141-151. doi: 10.1177/001316446002000116

Appendix

VECTERS 2.0, (items after factor analysis reduction) Contact authors for a complete version including demographic questions and for an electronic version.

1 = Strongly Disagree 2 = Disagree			3 = Agree				4 = Strongly Agree							
							Real-	world						
		Formative Feedback (collecting ongoing				Applic	ations	5						
					(demonstrate				Inch			اممد		
		stud	eeubai onts ai	k iro d alt	n oring	relevance, integrate				student to student				
		instru	uction	throu	ghout	underscore				discussions during class				
		the s	emeste	er bas	ed on	connections to industry				(focused on furthering				
			feed	back)		and design)				understanding)				
2. I understand this strategy/tool well enoug	h to implement it successfully. (E)	1	2	3	4	1	2	3	4	1	2	3	4	
My knowledge of this strategy/tool is suff	icient to implement it successfully. (E)	1	2	3	4	1	2	3	4	1	2	3	4	
My students lack the skills necessary to e	effectively use this strategy/tool. (E)	1	2	3	4	1	2	3	4	1	2	3	4	
5. Using this strategy/tool may make class t	too chaotic. (E)	1	2	3	4	1	2	3	4	1	2	3	4	
6. There are too many students in my class	to implement this strategy/tool	1	2	З	Δ	1	2	З	4	1	2	З	4	
effectively. (E)		-	2	5	-	-	2	5	-	-	2		-	
7. Using this strategy/tool interferes with ac	tual learning. (E)	1	2	3	4	1	2	3	4	1	2	3	4	
8. This strategy/tool is inappropriate for the	subject I teach. (E)	1	2	3	4	1	2	3	4	1	2	3	4	
9. This strategy/tool will not work with my st	udents. (E)	1	2	3	4	1	2	3	4	1	2	3	4	
10. The physical set-up of my classroom is	an obstacle to using this strategy/tool.													
(E)		1	2	3	4	1	2	3	4	1	2	3	4	
11. Use of this tool/strategy hinders learning	g of bright students (V)	1	2	3	4	1	2	3	4	1	2	3	4	
13. Using this strategy/tool aids my career.	(V)	1	2	3	4	1	2	3	4	1	2	3	4	
14. This strategy/tool is a valuable instruction	onal approach. (V)	1	2	3	4	1	2	3	4	1	2	3	4	
15. Use of the strategy/tool helps students of	obtain a deeper understanding of the		2	2	4		2	2			2	2		
material. (V)		1	2	3	4	1	2	3	4	1	2	3	4	
16. Use of this strategy/tool hinders my abil	ity to fairly assess students. (V)	1	2	3	4	1	2	3	4	1	2	3	4	
17. Using this strategy/tool promotes valuat	ble collegiality among students. (V)	1	2	3	4	1	2	3	4	1	2	3	4	
18. This strategy/tool is aligned with goals of	of my college and university. (V)	1	2	3	4	1	2	3	4	1	2	3	4	
19. Using this strategy/tool fosters positive a	student attitudes towards learning. (V)	1	2	3	4	1	2	3	4	1	2	3	4	
20. Using this strategy/tool increases stude	nts' comprehension and achievement.	1	2	3	4	1	2	3	4	1	2	3	4	
21. Using this strategy/tool motivates stude	nts. (V)	1	2	3	4	1	2	3	4	1	2	3	4	
22. The effort involved in implementing this	strategy/tool is great. (C)	1	2	3	4	1	2	3	4	1	2	3	4	
23. It is very difficult to implement this strate	egy/tool without specialized materials.	1	2	2	4	1	2	2	4	1	2		4	
(C)			2	3	4	1	2	3	4	1	2	3	4	
24. Implementing this strategy/tool requires	considerable use of TA's. (C)	1	2	3	4	1	2	3	4	1	2	3	4	
26. Implementing this strategy/tool takes to	o much preparation time. (C)	1	2	3	4	1	2	3	4	1	2	3	4	