October 2, 2017

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University of Arizona

Sandra Bernal

University of Arizona

Dear Sandra,

Thank you for the opportunity to attend and observe your teaching session, "Health Measures and Applications for Buildings" as part of the workshop series for USGBC-Tucson Emerging 2030 District Ambassadors. I thoroughly enjoyed watching the engagement you had with your learners and through you, your learners had in the topic.

As with many other workshop series, your attendees change from session to session. In the case of Tuesday, September 26, 2017, you had a small group (less than ten) from a broad range of backgrounds (community leaders in the topic to undergraduate students). You did an excellent job of making all participants feel welcome. Facilitating introductions at the beginning, as well as at the halfway point (for late arrivers), created a more relaxed atmosphere. Given the diverse experience of your learners, have you considered gauging the prior knowledge at the beginning of the session through a show of hands, or perhaps a survey? This could help guide your teaching (and give insight to your learners about the knowledge of their peers) and adjust your discussion points if the learners come with a lot, or very little, knowledge.

Logistically, you smoothly adjusted to the room you were reassigned to thirty minutes prior to your teaching. You also made the most of the new space by creating a u-shaped seating arrangement around the table, which allowed for nice discussion amongst your learners. Furthermore, you maximized technology by utilizing Facebook Live, giving other learners who may not have been able to attend the opportunity to listen and contribute throughout the lesson. Have you considered sharing this information in an official method (on your advertisement, perhaps)? This could maximize the opportunity, as well as allow learners to know they would be being streamed during the workshop.

In preparation for your teaching, I reviewed your provided lesson plan and your learning objectives were clear and concise. The method you presented your material to meet the listed objectives was appropriate and balanced for a workshop series. While you spent the majority of the time presenting the information, I believe your enthusiasm and passion about the topic increased your learners engagement throughout the presentation. Additionally, incorporating an activity to gauge your effectiveness and identify any gaps in understanding broke up the lesson and facilitated active engagement by the learners. The activity, as a means of assessment, was appropriate for the level of understanding you were seeking your learners to achieve. The activity, while initially planned to be an individual activity, morphed into a group discussion based off the needs of your learners. Your attentiveness to the learners and ability to adjust your plan increased the value-added for your learners.

As you were nearing the end of your lesson, I enjoyed when you shared your personal connection with the topic. Those stories were very interesting and gave a different, more personal, perspective to audience members who may not initially connected so closely with the topic. Perhaps you could consider sharing one earlier in the lesson? A personal story like yours would be an excellent attention-getter and something to revisit as you teach the technicalities of health measures for buildings.

Again, very well done! If you have any questions or would like to discuss my observations further, you may contact me at kyliekopp@email.arizona.edu or at 520-626-8812.

Very Respectfully,

Kylie Kopp