

## CAFE Resources: Understanding Unique Populations of Learners

Please visit the CAFE in Grote 100 during open hours:

*Tuesdays, Wednesdays, and Fridays 10am to 2pm*



We are continuing our semester-long review of CAFE resources around the theme of ***Understanding Unique Populations of Learners***. This month we examine resources related to *women as learners*, including suggestions from ***Women as Learners: The Significance of Gender in Adult Learning by Hayes and Flannery*** (CAFE Shelf tag: LC 5225 .L42 H39):

Although today's culture puts significant emphasis on the role of women in our society, there is limited information about adult women's learning in the current professional literature. Women continue to increase their numbers in those attending and completing college. (At Schoolcraft, approximately 54% of our students are female – *Data Bites, February 2015*.) This trend suggests it may be helpful to consider the implications of insights into women's learning. Hayes and Flannery remind us that "each adult educator has a role to play in improving women's education, but we don't all have the same point of entry." These entry points include:

- Effective Delivery of Content** – Become familiar with women's experiences in specific content areas. Include discussion and activities about these experiences in the instructional process.
- Modeling Ways of Being** – Serve as a mentor or coach to guide women toward membership in a community of practice.
- Cultivating Ways of Thinking** – Assist women learners in building bridges between prior knowledge and new learning by understanding the unique context from where the female learner came and to where she is headed.
- Commitment to Self-Efficacy** – Nurture the female learner's belief in her ability to learn, grow, and become a contributing member of her chosen professional community.
- Commitment to Seeking a Better Society** – Motivate women toward commitment and action on social, political, moral, and other issues relevant to their professional and/or personal growth and development.

Further information about women as learners can be found at the following location:

<http://www.aauw.org/files/2013/05/women-in-community-colleges.pdf>

Additional teaching strategies and instructional ideas can be found in ***The Teaching Professor*** and ***Faculty Focus***. Back issues of ***The Teaching Professor*** can be found in a binder in the CAFE, and selected articles from ***Faculty Focus*** can be found at: [U:\CAFE \(Center for Academic & Faculty Excellence\)](U:\CAFE (Center for Academic & Faculty Excellence))

