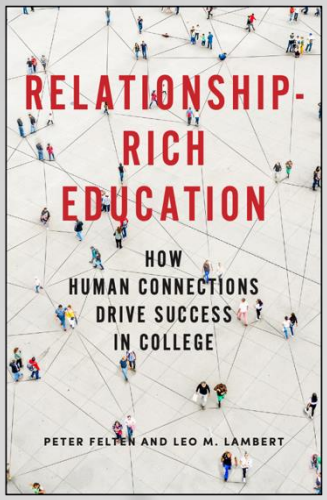
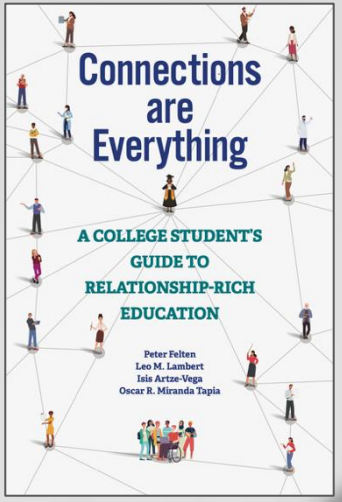
Relationship-rich education, experiential learning, and engaged dialogue

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(Photos from Horii & Springborg, *What Teaching Looks Like*, 2022)


RELATIONSHIP-RICH EDUCATION
HOW HUMAN CONNECTIONS DRIVE SUCCESS IN COLLEGE
PETER FELTEN AND LEO M. LAMBERT


Connections are Everything
A COLLEGE STUDENT'S GUIDE TO RELATIONSHIP-RICH EDUCATION
Peter Felten
Leo M. Lambert
Isis Artze-Vega
Oscar R. Miranda Tapia

1. All students must experience **genuine welcome and deep care**.
2. Relationships are a powerful means to **inspire students to learn**.
3. All students must develop **constellations of relationships**.
4. All students need meaningful relationships to help them—and to challenge them—to **explore the big questions of their lives**.
5. All students can and must **cultivate their own connections**.



Experiential learning & engaged dialogue act as **relationship accelerators.**

“My professor made something as boring as rocks interesting. The passion she had…her subject was something that she loved. The most important thing is that the class became a community. She made us interact with each other and with the subject.”

(José Robles, Nevada State College)



“People here see stuff in me that I don’t see in myself. When I doubt my ability to do something, my job supervisor Ellen will say, ‘Peta, what are you talking about? You’re great at that,’ or ‘You should work on this.’ When I’m struggling, I remember that Ellen told me I’m awesome. So I’m awesome.”

(Peta-Gaye Dixon, LaGuardia Community College)



“I saw that as new students, they were as lost as I was. They didn’t want to talk to anyone. They didn’t know how to reach out to professors. They didn’t know how to speak for themselves. But because I was one or two years older than them, I could help them navigate college and engage with ideas. I was there as a friend, and they trusted me, even with aspects of their personal lives.”

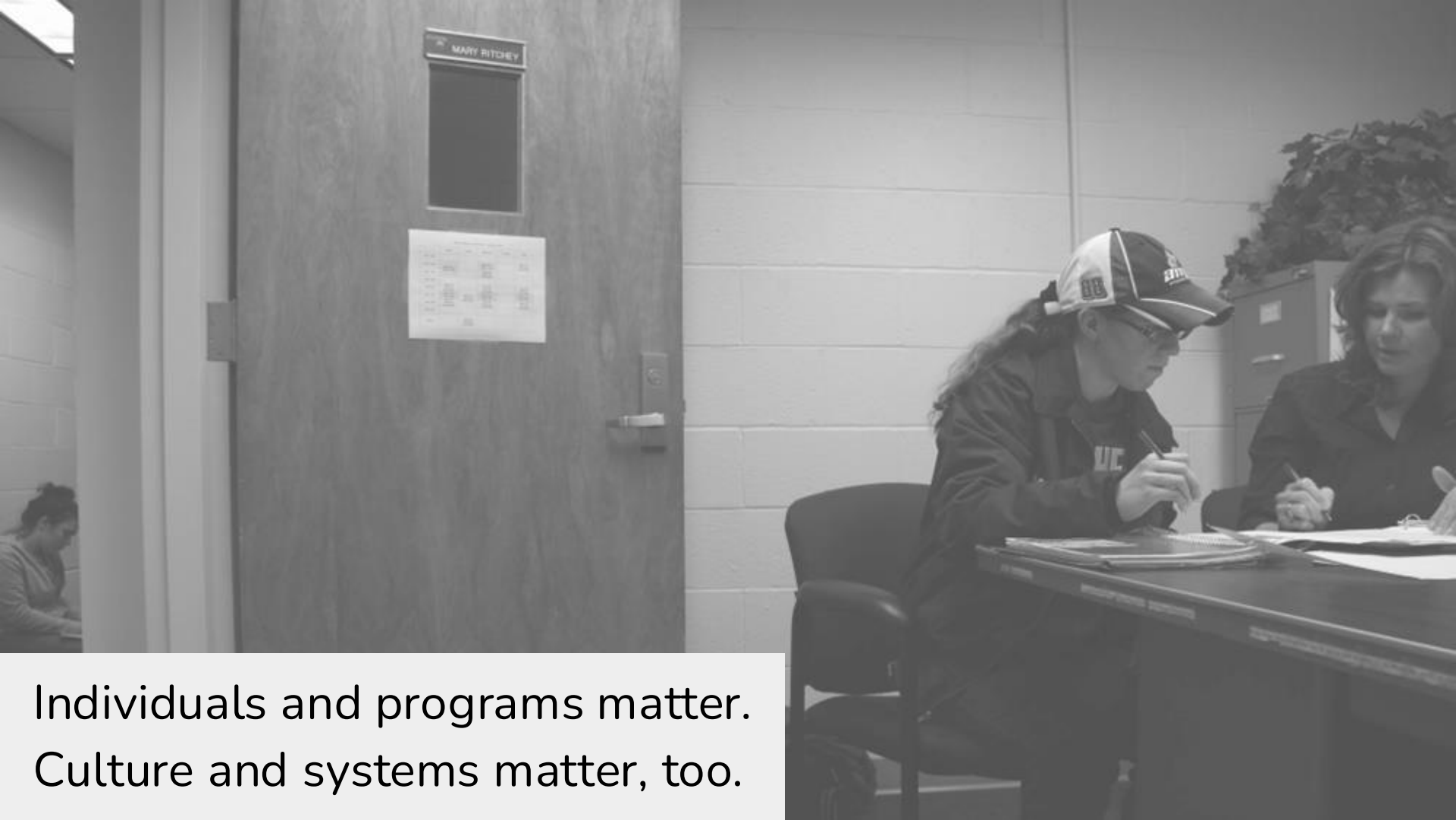
(Olegaria Gonzales, Nevada State College)





How does your action plan help students:

1. **Understand** that relationships matter for their learning and well-being?
2. **Learn** strategies to connect meaningfully with staff, faculty, peers, & partners?
3. **Act** in ways that enable them to build those relationships?



Individuals and programs matter.
Culture and systems matter, too.



"Our research demonstrates that the focus of many current efforts are not going to help at-promise students or institutions in achieving their student success goals. We argue that institutions should focus more on **altering campus culture through approaching work differently – collaborating and building trusting relationships – and engaging** administrators, staff, and faculty **in professional development**."

(Hallett, Kezar, et al., *Creating a Campus-Wide Culture of Student Success,* 2023, p. 14)

Relationship-rich education *at scale*

1. Commit to relationship-building as a core strategy
2. Establish shared framework(s)
3. Value and invest in relational teaching
4. Grow relational capacity in individuals and the organization
5. Align values, structures, and systems

(Felten et al, *Scaling Relationship-Rich Education*, Johns Hopkins U Press, 2027)



Working differently…

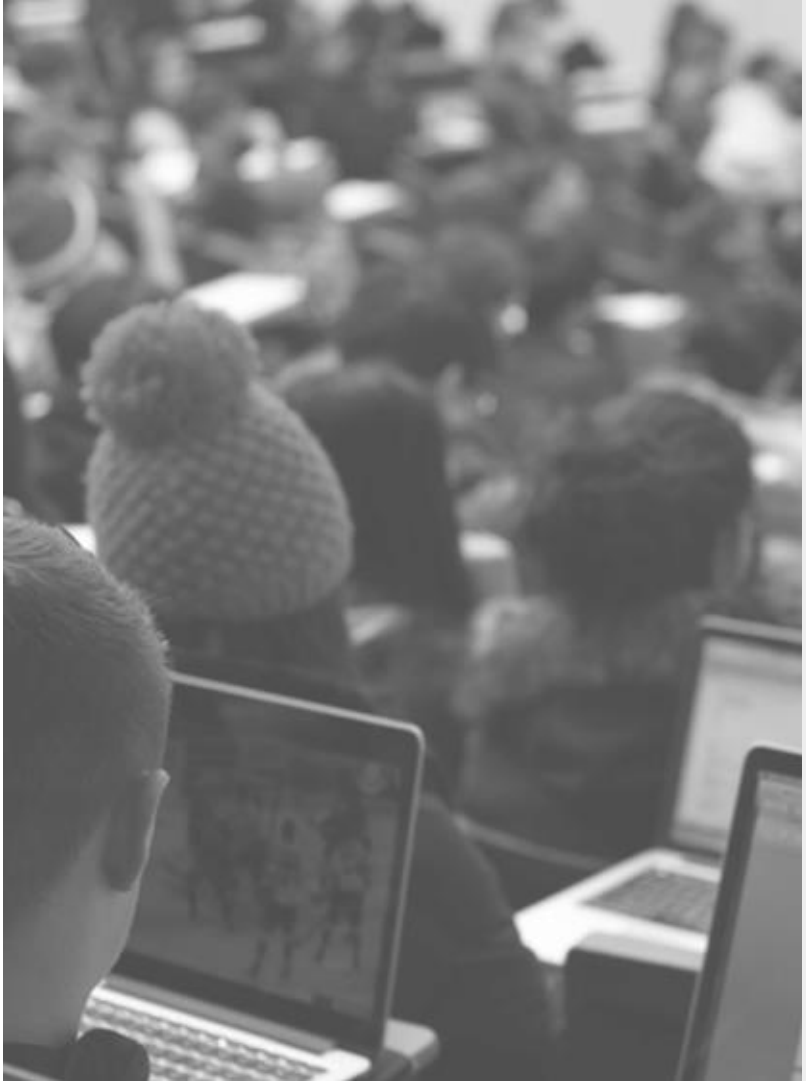
1. Iowa GROW, Division of Student Life, University of Iowa

2. Relentless Welcome Challenge, Georgia Highlands College

How can your action plan support "working differently" to build a more relationship-rich culture at your institution?

1. How can your action plan center collaboration, trust-building, & PD?
2. How can your action plan build relationship-rich education at scale?





Next steps

- Jot down a key takeaway or two from this session; what resonated most?
  - What will you do?
  - What should be in your action plan?
- Did you meet (or hear from) someone who you'd like to connect with further? If so, what's your plan to do so?