

## Introduction Notes

During the next hour we will explore with you the effect of the learning environment, with particular emphasis on student learning in the classroom. The learning environment includes all the interactions that make up the messages that learners receive in the classroom; for example, student - student, and student - faculty interactions. The underlying hypotheses of this workshop are that improving the classroom learning environment can improve student ability and motivation to learn and that an adverse classroom learning environment can get in the way of even the best teaching. The workshop is a work-in-progress and part of the National Science Foundation's ECSEL coalition activities.

### OBJECTIVES:

- To engender discussion about the learning environment
- To raise questions about how to enhance the learning environment and who is responsible for learning
- To aid in identifying specific areas of interest in your department for future workshops and/or problem solving sessions
- To gather ideas and methods from you to enhance future workshop sessions

### FORMAT:

- We will show you a video based on student responses to interviews about their experiences at a large "research one" university
- Shown in two parts, with discussion time after each section
- The workshop will last for one hour
- Interactive session, so you can raise issues and questions of importance to you

### RESULTS:

- Your responses will be captured in two ways:
  - On the easels during discussion
  - On evaluation forms you will receive at the end of the workshop
- All results will be sent to your department head for distribution and any further action.
- We also use your responses to help refine the workshop

### LIMITATIONS:

- Since time is limited, we will have to move quickly. Practically, this means that we won't be able to generate a number of ideas and issues if we stop to discuss every interesting point along the way. The documentation is designed to capture these as we go along, for your discussions and action later.
- To respond to this limitation, a classroom activities tip sheet, a list of additional resources and a description of the methodology will be provided to each participant.