

Fried, Jane, et al. (2012). *Transformative learning through engagement*. Sterling, VA: Stylus. 200 pp.

Review by Tracy S. Hoover

*T*ransformative Learning Through Engagement reinforces the value associated with engaging students in learning inside and outside the classroom, a principle that has been recognized since the development of student-based organizations on college campuses. The benefits of engaging young adults in prosocial activities and events, such as clubs, service-learning, and community engagement, have been documented by numerous professionals in adolescent development. Fried references numerous examples of opportunities for student growth and development at the curricular and cocurricular level in institutions of higher education.

This book provides student affairs professionals several perspectives along a continuum of student learning and engagement in higher education. Some examples portray a disconnect between academic (classroom/laboratory) and extracurricular (student clubs, organizations, and events) learning; others provide a collaborative and contextual approach to student development, learning, and engagement. Fried supports an experiential learning approach to the collegiate experience and student development, one that requires a reexamination of traditional academic and student affairs cultures. She speaks to the development of a “border pedagogy” that encourages traditional academics and student affairs professionals to collaborate and create meaningful engaged learning opportunities for students.

One of the high points of the book is the last section, which contains several examples of successful engaged learning programs in mentorship, first-year experience, service-learning, and civic engagement. These real case studies provide the reader with a view of institutional commitment, examples of student affairs professionals and faculty working toward a shared goal, process and execution of the program, and measurable learning outcomes of these successful programs.

About the Reviewer

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