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When I met Dr. Clayton in 2004, I was immediately impressed with her work on service learning because I found it to be thorough, comprehensive, and substantive. As I increased my familiarity with her work I recognized that it was the best work I had encountered on reflection, faculty development, assessing student learning, and structuring approaches to student learning. Because of the quality of her work, I invited her to be a Senior Scholar in the IUPUI Center for Service and Learning (CSL) to help us with assessment and faculty development activities, and she has been reappointed each subsequent year.

Dr. Clayton's work has had a profound influence on my own professional growth, and the growth of our staff and faculty at IUPUI. I am willing to admit that I can no longer give any workshop, lecture, or keynote address about service learning without mentioned her work (e.g., her DEAL model). Recently we spent a delightful afternoon formulating a new model for campus-community partnerships that will be the basis for future scholarship and research.

She has developed excellent approaches to critically examining how students can produce better reflection products; this led her to design and evaluate educational interventions to produce student growth, to develop techniques for generating learning learning objectives, and to elaborate rubrics for assessment and feedback. She then tied these facets to approaches that help faculty revise courses, all of which help them grow professionally and be productive scholars.

Our faculty find her to be a delight to work with but, most importantly, rewarding. Her work with our IUPUI faculty on DEAL and assessment has resulted in at least 15 presentations by IUPUI faculty and is generating several manuscripts for publication. The CSL staff members have also benefited from her contributions. She has worked with them on assessing their programs and we have appreciated her input on other programming, research, and evaluation projects (e.g., alternative measures for civic growth; coaching Engaged Department grant recipients on assessment; designing a faculty liaison program).

Her influence has transcended NCSU and IUPUI. I have worked with the top leaders in the field of service learning and civic engagement. Each of those persons has many strengths. However, I have been recommending Dr. Clayton over many of them for campus visits, as a conference speaker, and for national initiatives because I think that she has as much or more to contribute. She is now a national leader for service learning and civic engagement and her prominence will only grow.

Dr. Clayton has an unyielding commitment to the core values of service learning and civic engagement, including the importance of student voice, developing consensus among constituencies, and understanding the potential for service learning to deepen and broaden the civic engagement mission of higher education.

In athletics, the Most Valuable Player is someone who makes everyone else's performance better. Dr. Clayton is a MVP for service learning. She has made my work better and that of my staff, and she will continue to improve the work of others nationally and internationally.