

## IN THIS ISSUE OF PERSPECTIVE

I always look forward to the Fall Faculty Conference, our annual rite of passage as teachers into a new academic year. It's a day to celebrate not what separates us in our respective academic silos, but rather what we share in common on this campus: A thirst to teach more effectively.

This year's theme was "A Pioneer's Heart and an Innovator's Vision: Press Forward with Faith." Isn't this the perfect description of what we are called upon to do every day! From the keynote address to about 20 breakout sessions, with scores of informal conversations taking place between sessions and over lunch, we were pointed toward our quest to be teaching pioneers and innovators. Along the way we were offered real, hands-on ideas toward improving the learning in our courses and expanding the vision of our stewardship as teachers.

In this year's theme was another dimension to both challenge and comfort us: As we strive to ever grow and improve as teachers, we must constantly seek the guidance of the Spirit and then press forward with faith, knowing our preparation and righteous efforts will be blessed. President Henry J. Eyring said this in his inaugural address: "Ricks College and BYU-Idaho have a long tradition of meeting the needs of... students, largely through individual employees who seek the Holy Ghost's guidance in their administration." I'm sure you've noted in President Eyring's tenure thus far an emphasis on retaining more of the students who come to our campus or enroll in our online courses. BYU-Idaho's students are more diverse than ever before, and this requires even more pioneers/innovators among our ranks. I noted how many breakout sessions this year seemed to have this, and President Eyring's challenge, in mind.

I'm always impressed with how much Faculty Conference breakout session presenters accomplish in just 25 minutes – that's not much longer than a TED talk! This allows us attendees to attend more sessions and reap more benefits from the buffet of ideas available. But it also may prevent some presenters from being able to cover their topic as fully as they would like.

This is why we dedicate an issue of Perspective each year to the Fall Faculty Conference. It allows many presenters to provide additional information – we wish space allowed us to print all 21 of them and the keynote address. For you who attended, you can revisit the ideas that resonated with you. For those unable to attend, you too can benefit from the pioneering and innovative ideas shared here.

Being a pioneer and innovator is hard, lonely work. We hope this issue of Perspective will make this a bit easier.



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