



**Learner Engagement and
Academic Innovation**

***Connections are Everything* : Orientation Podcasts with Connections Text**

Context:

At Southern New Hampshire University, our Center for Teaching and Learning is an on-campus office that primarily serves our 3500 undergraduate students on our Manchester, NH Campus. The CTL has been running a podcast, *Co-Designed*, for the past two years. *Co-Designed* focuses on collaborations between students and faculty, conversations surrounding best practices, and ways to enhance (and continue to develop) constellations of support on campus.

Goals:

Our goals for the initiative using *Connections are Everything* focus on first-year student retention and persistence, as well as creating a meaningful sense of belonging on campus. We will assess these goals through targeted surveys and through using metrics already collected by the University.

What we plan to do:

We plan on creating an interactive Common read where students will read a chapter of *Connections* and then listen to a related episode *Co-Designed*. These episodes of *Co-Designed* will be developed by upper-level students to discuss the obstacles and wins they experienced their first year in college. First-year students will reflect on how these podcast episodes relate to what they have read in *Connections*.

Following completion of the book and the podcast series, first-year students will write and produce their own podcast based on their experiences and related to a chapter or specific passage in *Connections* that resonates with them. These episodes will be kept in a repository and shared with future classes as a way to answer questions and concerns in a casual setting by their own peers. Select students will be chosen to provide updates each year of their college journey as a way to follow the Connections they make and continue to build moving forward.

Constellation of Support Student Podcast Example:

<https://www.buzzsprout.com/1763237/episodes/10218208>

Contact:

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