## UNIVERSITY of HOUSTON COLLEGE of NATURAL SCIENCES & MATHEMATICS

## Faculty Development Workshop Series

## Using Jigsaw Activities to Improve Student Engagement and Learning

Dr. Jenifer Gifford

Instructional Assistant Professor

Department of Biology and Biochemistry

Jigsaw activities are a cooperative, active learning strategy that can be used to encourage in-depth exploration of a particular topic, develop student accountability and engagement, and build communication skills within diverse groups of students.

<u>Jigsaw Workflow:</u> A broad topic must be chosen and broken down into multiple subtopics. Students are divided into small groups of 3-5 to cooperatively become experts on a single assigned subtopic. After consulting with their expert groups and developing a streamlined report or presentation, one student from each expert group is sorted into sharing groups. Each expert is required to teach the others about their assigned subtopic, which provides a complete overview of the broad topic chosen for the jigsaw activity.

<u>Scale</u>: While easiest to conduct in small to medium sized lecture or laboratory classes (25-50 students), this activity has been scaled to large lecture classes with an enrollments of 150+ in 1000, 3000, and 4000 level classes.

Attendees to this faculty development workshop will learn how to approach setting up a jigsaw activity in their classroom, become familiar with the workflow of the activity during class, and will participate in a simplified and abbreviated jigsaw exercise.

Friday, November 18, 2022
11 am - noon
Science Teaching Laboratories (STL) Room 203
This is an in-person session.
Please RSVP