**Saving Intro Psych: A heroic journey**

With Garth Neufeld

Abstract

The hero’s journey begins with a calling. For many undergraduate psychology professors, that calling includes teaching introductory psychology. In this course, we face challenges for which we are unprepared. We lack expertise in content areas, and we don’t quite know how to capitalize on the one shot we have at teaching psychological science to students who will never take another psychology course. We *do* know what is at stake: more than just another course, this is *the* course that can impact the way that millions of students think, learn, and relate to the world around them. On our path, we learn that introductory psychology is not only a formidable foe to master but also one that can transform us into heroic educators. Armed with new recommendations from APA’s Introductory Psychology Initiative, including integrative themes for the course, you are invited on the heroic journey of saving introductory psychology from being anything less than transformational for students and teachers alike.

Speaker Bio

Garth Neufeld is professor of psychology at Cascadia College and Faculty-in-Residence of the

college’s Teaching and Learning Academy. He is the founder of Teaching Introductory

Psychology Northwest and the Teaching of Psychology Incubator workshop, and co-founder of

the PsychSessions podcast and The Psychology Network (both 501(c)(3) nonprofit

organizations). He has served the national teaching of psychology community through various

leadership roles through the Society for the Teaching of Psychology (STP), the AP Psychology

Reading, and APA’s Educational Directorate and is co-editor of the APA book, “Transforming

Introductory Psychology: Expert advice on teaching, training, and assessing the course”. In

2018, Garth was awarded a Citizen Psychologist presidential citation from the APA for co-

founding Shared Space For All (www.sharedspaceforall.org), an organization that educates and

mentors at-risk Thai children toward the prevention of prostitution. He is also the recipient of

the 2019 STP Wayne Weiten Teaching Excellence Award.