

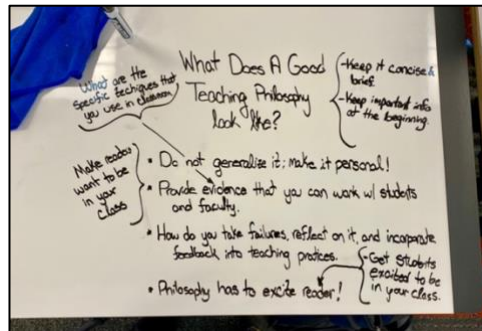
# Understanding the University Context

## Competency Information

**Competency Description** To navigate the university context, instructors should understand the different institutional types such as research universities, comprehensive public universities, liberal arts institutions, community colleges, minority-serving institutions, and for-profit institutions). Each institutional type has unique characteristics, priorities, and expectations for faculty regarding research, teaching, and service, and they have a working knowledge of their rights, roles, and responsibilities in each institutional setting. Instructors should familiarize themselves with the rights, roles, and responsibilities specific to their institutional setting.

**Competency Development** I developed a competency in understanding the university context by attending the College Teaching Institute (CTI, a three-day workshop) in the spring of 2022. Dr. Judith Stoddart's workshop provided an in-depth exploration of the characteristics and features of different types of high education institutes. I particularly valued how the workshop aligned teaching practices with the missions of various institutional types and how to develop a professional teaching presence. By the end of the workshop, I felt better equipped to navigate the different institutional settings and tailor my teaching practices to meet the needs of various student populations.

## **Artifact**



**Artifact 1.** My whiteboard notes from Dr. Judith Stoddart presentation on *Understanding the University Context—Aligning Teaching w/ Different Institutional Types & Missions* (i.e., what makes a good teaching statement)

## **Artifact Rationale**

To create a good teaching philosophy, the instructor needs to personalize the philosophy to the specific institution. By making the philosophy personalized, it will adhere to the institutions mission statement and specific learning goals. Therefore, the teaching experiences that are highlighted in the statement will have that much more of an impact. The whiteboard notes were taken during a think-pair-share activity with a cooperative group. This artifact showcases my competency in aligning my teaching philosophy with a specific institutional type, demonstrating my ability tailor my teaching philosophy and teaching practices to meet institutional goals.

**Interpretation / Reflection** I gained competency in understanding the university context by comparing and discussing the different institutional types and their requirements. Although all institutions provide education and professional opportunities, they differ in mission statements, appointment types (i.e., research, teaching, and service), and the role of the instructor.

After the CTI workshop, I reflected on the different institutional types and where my skills, values, and interests would align best. Understanding the university context has only further instilled my goal of obtaining a faculty position at a primarily undergraduate institution (i.e., Comprehensive Public Universities or Liberal Arts Institutions).