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The Impact of oCUBE: A Community of Practice of Biology Educators.

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ABSTRACT: The Ontario Consortium of Undergraduate Biology Educators (oCUBE) is a community of practice that was established in 2008 by a group of Ontario Biology instructors to promote interactions among individuals with similar teaching and learning interests. The broad focus of oCUBE is to enrich the teaching and learning experience for both students and instructors of biology education. Unique features of oCUBE include its grassroots origins, collaborative structure, the UnConference model that provides the framework for semi annual meetings, an online journal club, and its focus The Impact of oCUBE July 201 Transformative Dialogues: Teaching & Learning Journal Volume Issue July 201 on peer mentorship and support. It can sometimes be difficult to measure the impacts of communities of practice; however, personal reflections can reveal the novel impacts a community of practice has had on its members. Here, we report some personal reflections on the oCUBE experience and impact. These impact statements have been organized into the following categories: (1) Collaboration; (2) Knowledge translation and transfer; (3) Appreciation of different perspectives on teaching and learning; (4) Mentoring, support, and formative feedback; (5) Building relationships; (6) Transformation; and (7) Increased engagement with the scholarship of teaching and learning.