Abstract

Experiential learning has been a teaching method encouraged by universities over the recent years. Its focus on educational experiences that reflect problems and scenarios students will face in life have made this method of teaching an effective way to prepare students for their professional futures. This paper offers a critical look at the immersive learning program at Ball State University, which utilizes the experiential learning method. Immersive learning began at Ball State with while under JoAnn Gora's term as president of the university. Gora was impressed with the educational opportunities at the Virginia Ball Center directed by Dr. Joe Trimmer and wanted to expand immersive learning to all students. The paper analyzes ten different immersive learning courses offered at the university between 2014-2018 and discusses the benefits of each course, offering ideas for improvement when necessary. This analysis is based on personal experience in each of the courses and gives an individualized look at how experiential learning benefits students. Finally, this paper discusses the effects of immersive learning on a student's academic career and offers suggestions for improving the current immersive learning structure.