Linda Adler-Kassner

Linda Adle-Kassner is Associate Vice Chancellor of Teaching and Learning; Faculty Director of the Center for Innovative Teaching, Research, and Learning; and Professor of Writing Studies at University of California Santa Barbara.

Adler-Kassner's work has revolved around two foci: studying how "successful learning" is defined, enacted and assessed; and collaborating to make ideas about "successful learning" more visible, equitable, and inclusive. These foci are the core of her current work as AVC of Teaching and Learning, where she oversees a university-wide division that includes faculty and TA development (including pedagogical innovations); online course development; two academic belonging centers for undergraduates; three high-impact learning programs (undergraduate research, undergraduate learning assistants, and student transitions); university-wide learning assessment; and the campus's learning management system. Under her leadership and collaborating with faculty and staff, she has led a series of activities that, when combined, have created asset-based orientation to student success along with a suite of data- and research-driven tools to support course- and systems-level change to enact these orientations.

Adler-Kassner comes to this work as a teacher and a researcher. A writing teacher for more than 30 years, she has taught first year composition; courses focusing on public writing and civic engagement; and graduate courses ranging from composition theory, to assessment, to program leadership. She has worked in open-access institutions, comprehensive universities, and research-intensive universities.

As a researcher, Adler-Kassner is author, co-author, or co-editor of thirteen books and more than 50 articles and book chapters. These publications range from examinations of how students and faculty understand "good writing" or "good thinking" in a discipline to collaborative studies of core (threshold) concepts in disciplines. At the center, her research is fundamentally concerned with advocating for more visible, equitable, and inclusive conceptions of learning, and helping faculty put these conceptions into practice.

Adler-Kassner has also put her commitments into practice as a leader of her discipline. She is former President of the Council of Writing Program Administrators, an organization supporting the work of leaders of writing programs. She is also the former Chair of the Conference on College Composition and Communication, composition's largest disciplinary association. She has contributed to multiple policy documents that have influenced secondary and postsecondary writing policy, and continues to contribute to policy and practice associated with learning and equity in local and state contexts.