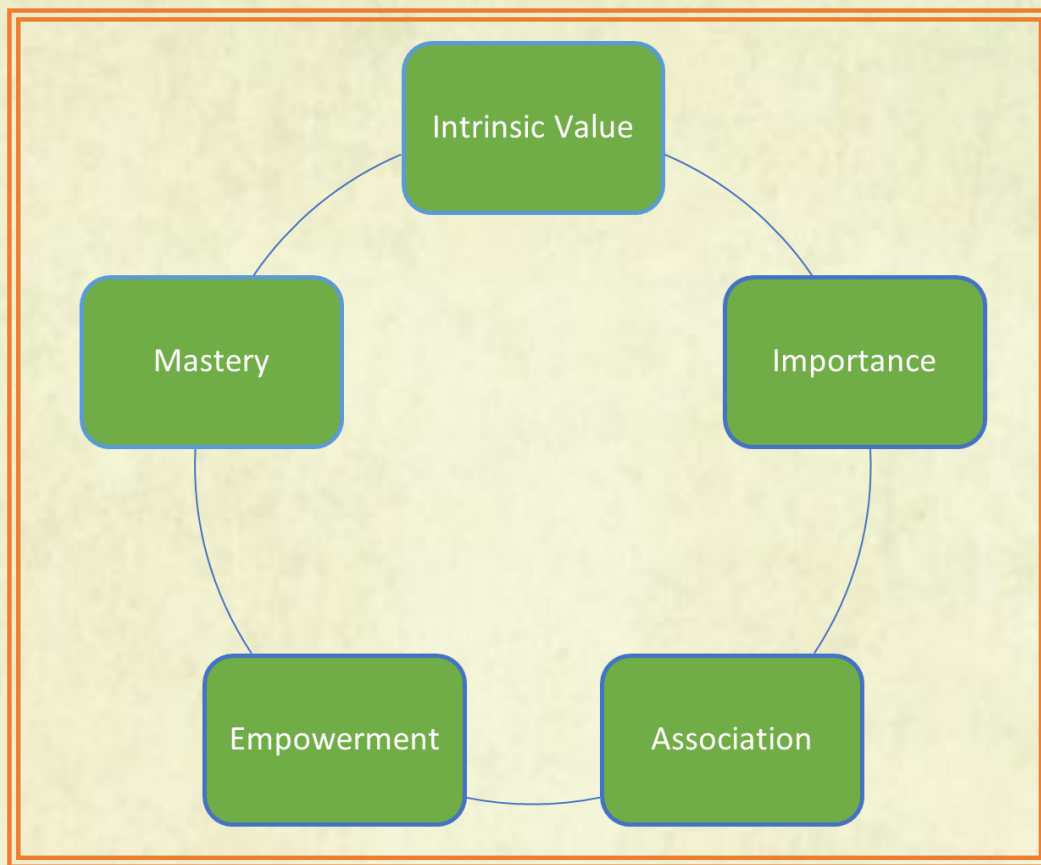




STUDENT ENGAGEMENT

Student engagement is a critical component of creating a sustainable learning environment, alongside relationships, teacher clarity, and academic rigor (SWUC, 2021). Five dimensions of engagement have been identified that contribute to learning: intrinsic value, importance, association, empowerment, and mastery. Dennis Shirley and Andy Hargreaves (2021, pp. 184 and 185) summarize these areas as follows.

Intrinsic value is closely related to the enchantment, creativity, and magic of a puzzle or activity. It runs counter to the disenchantment that is common in standardized curricula and bureaucratic testing procedures.

Importance or attainment value has affinity with the social and personal meaning and purpose of activities.

Association is about learning cooperatively with others in a group, network, or team that confers senses of attachment, belonging, and solidarity. It cultivates mutual obligations in a shared community.

Empowerment concerns developing students' confidence and capacity to acquire the skills and dispositions to shape their own futures and participate in the broader society. Students' autonomy over their own choices and decisions is an integral part of empowerment.

Mastery involves pursuing excellence and high performance to a degree that involves intense focus, concentration, discipline, persistence, stretching, struggle, and sometimes even suffering to become supremely competent in a new area of knowledge or skill. It is the obverse of transient distraction, and part of the quest to dedicate oneself to producing work or performances of the highest quality.

References

Shirley, D., & Hargreaves, A. (2021). *Five paths of student engagement: Blazing the trail to learning and success*. Bloomington, IN: Solution Tree.

Southwestern Union Conference of SDA. (2021). *Education by design: Our story*. Burleson, TX: SWUC.