Creating Communities of Learning

Lynn D. Meyer
Minnesota College Personnel Association
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“Organizationally and operationally, we have lost sight of the forest. If undergraduate education is to be enhanced, faculty members, joined by academic and student affairs administrators, must devise ways to deliver undergraduate education that are as comprehensive and integrated as the ways that students actually learn. A whole new mind set is needed to capitalize on the inter-relatedness of the in and out-of-class influences on student learning and the functional interconnectedness of academic and student affairs divisions.”

Today’s Institutional Challenges for MSU, M

- Student Retention
- Student Achievement
- Student Learning and Engagement
- Student Satisfaction
- Faculty Engagement with Students
- Interdisciplinary Collaboration
Collaboration & Partnership

Learning Communities Program

Student Affairs
Office of First Year Experience
Academic Affairs
Learning Communities at Minnesota State University, Mankato
Learning Community Planning Group-Fall 1998

- Admissions
- Registrar
- Student Affairs Leadership
- Residential Life
- Academic Affairs Leadership
- College Dean(s)
- Faculty
- Students
- Student Affairs Professionals
- Assessment Consultant
MSU, M Learning Community Model

Course Co-Enrollment
- Three Courses
  - Theme Course
  - English/Speech/Misc.
  - First Year Seminar/Misc.
- General Education Courses

Clustered Housing
- Community Members Live on Same Floor

Peer Mentorship
- Learning Community Coordinator
  - Undergraduate Student
  - Bridge Curricular and Co-Curricular
  - Supervised and Trained by FYE
Critical Pieces to Consider

- Student Application/Admittance to Program
- Co-Enrollment Process
- Clustered Housing Process
- Marketing/Recruitment
- Assessment
- Budget Development
- Peer Mentorship
- Faculty Development
- Co-Curricular Program
- Total Program Development for Future
Academic Affairs and Student Affairs Collaboration

- Common Understanding of Goals/Objectives or Focal Person for Program Administration
- Politics
- Decisions and Communication
- Budget Development
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Faculty Development

- Learning Communities Faculty Resource Manual
- Learning Community Calendar of Events
- Faculty Development Sessions
- “An Idea/Resource to Share”
- Learning Community Conferences
- Learning Community Articles/Research
Peer Mentorship

- Learning Community Coordinator (LCC) Position Description
- LCC Training and Planning
- Individual Resident Interactions
- Faculty Connection
- Activities
  - Welcome Events & Materials
  - Course Connection & Study Groups
  - Study Incentive Programs
  - Bookmark/Bulletin Board Series
  - Theme Related/Team Building Activities