

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.”

Terenzini, Patrick T. and Pascarella, Ernest T. “Living with Myths: Undergraduate Education in America”. Change, 1994, 26 (1), 28-32.



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



Budget Development

Category	Support
Administrative Costs	FYE
Co-Curricular Program Costs	RL & AA
LCC Stipends and Training	SA, AA, FYE
Marketing/Recruitment	RL & FYE
Assessment	AA
Recognition	
Faculty Development	AA
Professional Staff	AA, FYE



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