

IOWA STATE UNIVERSITY

OF SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY

Interoffice Communication

DATE: October 23, 2003

TO: Corly Brooke, Co-chair of the Learning Community Advisory Committee
Doug Gruenewald, Co-chair of the Learning Community Advisory Committee

FROM: Laura Doering, Associate Registrar
Carolyn Nading, Assistant Registrar

RE: **Learning Community Retention Report
Cohorts 1998, 1999, 2000, 2001, and 2002**

Table 1 includes one-year, two-year, three-year, and four-year retention rates, and average ACT/SAT scores for both the learning community and non-learning community student cohorts, years 1998, 1999, 2000, 2001, and 2002. The source of this data is the Iowa State University Longitudinal Retention Survey, Office of Institutional Research. The cohorts include the distinct number of first-time, full-time students who entered Iowa State University summer semester or fall semester. Summer entry students who did not continue fall are omitted. Part-time students are omitted. Deceased students are not removed from the cohort. Beginning with the third year, the success rate is calculated by adding the retention and graduation rates.

In all cases, the retention rate is greater for learning community students than for non-learning community students. The difference is as follows:

Cohort year	First year retention	Second year retention	Third year retention or graduation	Fourth year retention or graduation	Fifth year retention or graduation
1998	LC 9.1% greater than non-LC	LC 12.7% greater than non-LC	LC 12.3% greater than non-LC	LC 13.7% greater than non-LC	LC 13.1% greater than non-LC
1999	LC 8.3% greater than non-LC	LC 12.1% greater than non-LC	LC 11.0% greater than non-LC	LC 12.2% greater than non-LC	
2000	LC 9.3% greater than non-LC	LC 12.3% greater than non-LC	LC 13.2% greater than non-LC		
2001	LC 7.4% greater than non-LC	LC 9.7% greater than non-LC			
2002	LC 9.4% greater than non-LC				

Note: For all cohorts, the average ACT score is higher for learning community students than for non-learning community students.

Tables 2 through 6, which will illustrate retention rates for each learning community, will be sent to you by October 31, 2003. A total of 191 students have membership in more than one learning community, and subsequently will be counted with each learning community when determining retention rates at the community level.

- c: Mark Chidister, Assistant to the President
Howard Shapiro, Vice-Provost for Undergraduate Programs
Tom Hill, Vice-President for Student Affairs
Todd Holcomb, Associate Vice-President for Student Affairs
Kathleen Jones, Registrar
Bob Bergmann, Institutional Research Analyst