

Faculty-Student Interaction Best Practices

Connecting faculty with your learning community students can be challenging.

Here are some ideas gathered from a discussion on increasing faculty involvement with learning communities.

Carver Academy and Multicultural Vision Program

Carmen Flagge

- invite faculty to a semester opening event in which they have 3 minute getting-to-know-you sessions to speak with students one on one – this process allows faculty to feel more connected to the students

Food Science and Human Nutrition

Anne Oldham

- students invite faculty to lunch in the MacKay Tea Room; the faculty meet with 3 students at a time

Chemical Engineering

Brenda Kutz

- students take a faculty member to lunch using a dining card; the students prepare three questions that will be asked of faculty at the lunch, then they do a reflection on the answers given afterward
- students take a tour of faculty research labs

Horticulture

Barb Osborn

- personal invitations are sent to faculty for an etiquette dinner; small tables work best for this type of interaction
- students write a paper that the Horticulture faculty critique (topics are matched by the faculty members research area of interest) and then the students give a poster presentation on their paper to the faculty

Mechanical Engineering

Doug Beck

- faculty talk about their research to small groups of students over pizza, giving students the opportunity to seek out specific information in an area of personal interest

Technology

Steve Freeman

- students tour industry with faculty members

Agricultural Engineering

Steve Mickelson and Sue Ziegenbusch

- students perform faculty interviews in early fall
- faculty provide a one hour hands-on activity for the students to do which offers some exposure to future classes
- mentors take a larger role with increasing faculty involvement which seems to be more effective than having coordinators ask for involvement

*list compiled at faculty-student interaction workshop in Fall 2007