14th Annual Learning Communities Institute

Monday, May 7, 2012
Iowa State University
Scheman Building
Institute Schedule

8:00 – 8:30 a.m.   Check-in & Continental Breakfast
2nd Floor Lobby

8:30 – 9:15 a.m.   Welcome Address
Rooms 220/230/240
Doug Gruenewald,
Co-Director of Learning Communities

9:15 – 10:45 a.m.   Plenary: Understanding New Student Trends
Rooms 220/230/240
Marc Harding,
ISU Assistant Vice President for Enrollment and
Director of Admissions; and
Darin Wohlgemuth,
Director of Research for Enrollment and
Director of Budget Research & Analysis

Understanding New Student Trends
What are the current student trends at ISU?
What’s next and where are we headed in the next few years?
Marc Harding and Darin Wohlgemuth will address these critical questions and provide practical
information about our incoming students in this very engaging and interactive session.

10:45 – 11:00 a.m.  Break
2nd Floor Lobby

11:00 a.m. – 12:00 p.m.   Concurrent Sessions A
Session A1—Room 252
Developing a Simple (and reasonably painless) Assessment Plan
Jason Pontius, Program Coordinator, Continuous Academic Program Improvement
We know we are supposed to do assessment, but frankly, who has the time or energy? Not knowing
where to begin, we tend to try to assess everything or put off assessment projects for “next year”. In this
tag-on-free session we will discuss steps and strategies for creating a simple, doable, and effective
learning community assessment plan.

Session A2—204-208
Effectively Managing our Students’ Mental Health Concerns: Recognizing Students in Need and
Referring to Student Counseling Services
Kate Sirridge, Staff Psychologist, Student Counseling Services
This presentation will focus on providing information about various mental health concerns our students
face, including how to recognize when a student is in distress, how to effectively manage a crisis
situation, and how to refer students to Student Counseling Services.
Session A3—Room 262
The Science behind Learning: What students need to know to achieve academic success
Jill Kramer, Program Coordinator, Academic Success Center
Participants in this session will 1) reflect upon how they learn (beyond learning styles), 2) gain a better understanding of how the brain works in relation to learning, memory and concentration, 3) discover how to get the ‘most power out of their brains’, and 4) be able to help struggling students understand brain-based learning in order to find success in the classroom. Discussion will be based upon concepts of self-regulated learning, accountability in learning, and motivation.

Session A4—Room 260
Working with International Students: Learning and adjustment at ISU
James Dorsett, Director, Ali Soltanshahi, Program Coordinator, Dilok Phanchantraurai, Program Coordinator, Becky Zama, Program Coordinator, International Students and Scholars; and Difei Shen, Lecturer, Global Resource Systems
International students provide valuable diversity of ideas and perspectives, but they can present unique challenges to a campus. This session will provide information on how international student issues are being addressed at ISU, including adapting to the ISU/American culture both in and outside the classroom. We will also discuss some intercultural communication strategies for staff and faculty leading to better inclusion of international students in a learning community environment.

Session A5—Room 250
YouTube This: Social media used in one learning community
Debra Sanborn, Director, and Allison Severson, Program Advisor, Hixson Opportunity Awards and National Student Exchange
Nearly 500 students have participated in social media exercises including digital storytelling, blogging, and micro blogging as part of a first-year experience learning community. Student teams produce digital stories based on the first-year experience; individuals create blogs for reflective course writing and participate in Twitter and/or Facebook assignments. An overview of literature supporting social media usage to increase student engagement, processes behind course assignments, student evaluations, and methods to incorporate these activities into your learning community will be provided.

12:10 – 1:00 p.m. Lunch
Rooms 220/230/240

1:00 – 2:00 p.m. Concurrent Sessions B
Session B1—Room 262
Early College Credit Influence on Learning Communities
Jane Jacobson, Director of Liberal Arts and Sciences Student Academic Services; and Dayle Nickerson, Director of College of Human Sciences Student Services
Last year we invited learning community coordinators to share how students with early college credit affected their learning communities. This year we are back to share the findings of the Early Credit Task Force. We will highlight results from the students surveys and focus groups. The session will include time for coordinators to brainstorm about how the data can direct programming and plans for current and future learning communities.
Session B2—Room 260

Our First-year Multicultural Students: What we’ve learned from MAP-Works
Denise Williams, Multicultural Liaison Officer for the College of Human Sciences; and Santos Núñez Galicia, Assistant Dean and Director, Multicultural Student Affairs
We know the students of color at ISU represent many different backgrounds and experiences. We also know that, as an institution, we continue to retain them at a rate lower than other groups at the university. Join us to explore what we have learned about this population of students in their first year through four years of MAP-Works data and how we can address concerns and issues to improve retention.

Session B3—Room 252

Transfer Learning Community Round Table Discussion
Lora Leigh Chrystal, Assistant Director, Program for Women in Science and Engineering; and Jen Leptien, Program Coordinator, Learning Communities
Join us for a round table discussion about transfer participation in learning communities. We will share ideas for common outcomes, challenges and areas of improvement for the transfer student experience at Iowa State. Please come prepared to share your thoughts in an open dialogue about this growing population.

Session B4—Room 250

Using Gallup’s StrengthsFinder as Leadership Development for Peer Mentors
Denise Hix, Academic Adviser, Biology
What is StrengthsFinder? How can peer mentors use it for personal and professional growth? Join us for an overview of the ‘Strengths’ philosophy and examples of how it is being used with the Biology learning community this year. (This session will be repeated at 2:10 p.m. and was presented at the February Institute)

Session B5—Room 204-208

Work/Life Balance: What is it and how can we achieve it?
Beccah Schweers, Intern, Student Counseling Service
Learn how to improve your sense of balance between work and your personal life. Specific content will include mindfulness strategies to improve concentration on the here-and-now, general time management strategies, and when/how to say no.

2:10 – 3:10 p.m.  Concurrent Sessions C

Session C1—Room 204-208

Best Practices in Mentor Supervision Panel
Andrea Klocke, Academic Adviser, Materials Science and Engineering; Anne Oldham, Academic Adviser, Food Science and Human Nutrition; Lisa Sharp, Academic Adviser, and Pat Walsh, Academic Adviser, Human Development and Family Studies
At this session, a panel of 2011-2012 exemplary peer mentor supervisors will share tips for hiring and supervising mentors. In addition to sharing best practices, you are invited to ask our seasoned panel of coordinators for feedback on any burning peer mentor questions you need answered during this interactive session.

Session C2—Room 262

Effort Makes Us Strong: Growing our mindsets for learning in community
Suzanne Hendrich, University Professor, Food Science and Human Nutrition; and Kris Olds, Graduate Student, Educational Leadership and Policy Studies
The concept of Mindset, as popularized by Dr. Carol Dweck, suggests that students with a growth mindset are likely to persist in the face of difficulty, seek out feedback, and seek opportunities to be challenged. One significant component of this theory is “effort”. This session will help you develop your growth mindset and identify classroom or organizational activities which facilitate student learning by emphasizing meaningful and mindful effort.

Session C3—Room 252
Meaningful Strategies to Lead Groups and Promote Academic Success
Craig Zywicki, Program Coordinator, Academic Success Center
This workshop contains a sampling of group development strategies focused on peer leadership of groups, with emphasis on forming groups, leading peers, and problem solving. Content of this presentation is based on the book Students Helping Students and other resources used in the training of Supplemental Instruction Leaders.

Session C4—Room 260
Taking the ‘Sit’ Out of Diversity: Strategies for engaging students in difficult dialogues
Denise Williams, Multicultural Liaison Officer for the College of Human Sciences
Privilege, oppression, social justice, equity…these are not phrases that get many students amped up for class! Join us to explore strategies and suggestions for engaging students in interactive discussions about diversity issues that will leave them wanting more and talking about it as they walk out of the room. Suggestions for common readings will be provided.
(This session was also presented at the February Institute)

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Denise Hix, Academic Adviser, Biology
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3:10 – 3:50 p.m.   Awards and Dessert
Rooms 220/230/240

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### Schedule at a Glance

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5. **Session A5**
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### Concurrent Sessions B

1. **Session B1**
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