



2009 Engaging Departments Institute Session Updates and Additions

University-wide Discipline-based Assessment of General Education Student Learning Outcomes

Friday, 9:00am (Platt Rehearsal Room)

Faculty: *Gubbi Sudhakaran*

Disciplinary STEM courses frequently introduce material necessary for majors, while simultaneously serving as general education courses. As such, they target both content-based outcomes and broader learning outcomes based on abilities and skills development. This session will discuss a university-wide system by which broad, general-education outcomes are assessed within discipline-specific courses. Examples from STEM courses show that assessment of general education student learning outcomes can be embedded within departmental courses. In addition, we will explore how STEM faculty engage students to improve their critical thinking skills.

Revitalization of a Program Using Curricular Reforms

Saturday, 1:15pm (Ben Franklin Room)

Faculty: *Gubbi Sudhakaran*

A department that was on the brink of extinction and was successfully resuscitated into a nationally recognized program will be used to illustrate the power of curricular and departmental redesign to enhance student learning. The revitalization efforts included sweeping curricular reforms, aggressive recruitment and retention of students and faculty, and programmatic assessment techniques. The curricular reforms included the introduction of new academic programs for the majors, new courses for the non-majors, a Dual-Degree program in STEM fields which combines the richness of a traditional liberal arts education with Engineering skills, and opportunities for undergraduate research. The new curriculum was designed to offer flexibility and options to students in the major. The role of regular assessment for the success of the program and its enhanced quality will be demonstrated.

From Here to There: How General Education Learning Communities As a Conduit to the Major

Saturday, 1:15pm (Golkin Room)

Faculty: *Liz Clark*

Suggested Resources

- Palmer, Parker J. "Learning Communities: Reweaving the Culture of Disconnection." Washington Center News. Spring 2000. <http://www.evergreen.edu/washcenter/lcFaq.htm>
- Fried, Jane. "Learning Communities as Learning Systems." *Journal of Learning Communities Research* 2.2 (2007).

From Isolated Individuals to Engaged Community: Acculturation, Communities of Practice, and the Evolution of Department Culture

Friday, 9:00am (Golkin Room)

Faculty: *Liz Clark*

Suggested Resources

- Hutchings, Pat. "From Special Occasion to Regular Work: A Different Way to Think About Professional Development." The Carnegie Foundation for the Advancement of Teaching. October 2008. <http://www.carnegiefoundation.org/perspectives/sub.asp?key=245&subkey=2768>
- Wenger, Etienne, Richard McDermott and William M. Snyder. "Cultivating Communities of Practice: A Guide to Managing Knowledge—Seven Principles for Cultivating Communities of Practice." *Working Knowledge for Business Leaders*. Harvard Business School. 25 March 2002. <http://hbswk.hbs.edu/archive/2855.html>