LEAPing for Transformative Change and Student Success

Beverly Kopper, Chancellor
Greg Cook, Associate Vice Chancellor for Academic Affairs
David Halbach, Assistant Director of University Center
Jessica Hutchison, LEAP Intern

Introductions

- Name
- Institution
- Role
Who we are

- 4-year, residential campus
- Enrollment: 12,628
- Wisconsin: A challenging context
- Our rallying point: “We are all educators”
- LEAP: A framework to engage campus

LEAP

Liberal Education and America’s Promise (LEAP)
A national initiative launched in 2005 by AAC&U that champions the importance of a 21st century liberal education.

Wisconsin was designated the first official partner state in March 2005.

UW-Whitewater adopted LEAP in spring 2010.
LEAP

- A 21st century education for a global society
- High-quality baccalaureate education for all students
- Define learning that matters

Inclusive Excellence

- Providing highest-quality educational programs and opportunities for all students
- Access & success
ELOs: Essential Learning Outcomes

- What all students should know and be able to do
- National consensus
- Based on employer, campus, student input

POEs: Principles of Excellence

- Based on national research
- Factors related to student engagement & campus success
HIPs: High-Impact Practices

- Based on national research
- Associated with student engagement & success
- Under-represented groups benefit disproportionately: closing the achievement gap?

VALUE Project

Valid Assessment of Learning in Undergraduate Education:

- Authentic assessments of ELOs (not standardized tests)
- National consensus on benchmarks
- Engages faculty in scoring actual student work
Questions and Discussion

Engaging Student Affairs

- Framework to connect academic/curricular areas with co-curricular areas/events
- Created common language for learning across campus
- But... not every aspect of LEAP applies
Engaging Student Affairs

- Co-curricular/Extra-curricular
  - Ex.: Student employment!
    - Incorporate ELOs & HIPs in job descriptions
    - Evaluate job performance based on ELO & HIP
    - Have students self-evaluate against ELO & HIP

Engaging Student Affairs

- Leadership development
- Career Services
- Peer mentors
- Orientation leaders
- Others?
Engaging Student Affairs

- ELOs - where do they occur in SA?
  - Student activities programs
  - Service Learning projects
  - Community Service projects
  - Student employment
    - ELOs defined in student employment job descriptions
    - Written comments received twice per semester from student center student employees

Engaging Student Affairs

- PoE's - how do the occur in SA?
  - Aim High
    - Goals and objectives for many co-curricular activities
  - Connect Knowledge with choices and action.
    - Discussions with students in co-curricular events/activities.
  - Assess students' abilities to apply learning to complex problems.
    - Include discussion in student employee performance evaluation.
Engaging Student Affairs

- HIPs - what activities/events occur in SA?
  - First year seminars and experiences
  - Learning communities
  - Collaborative assignments and projects
  - Service Learning, community-based learning
  - Internships
  - Student employment impact on retention & graduation
    - Grad rate for employees vs general student body

Engaging Students

- Student Employment
- HawkFest/Hawk Squad
- Workshops
- RA Programming
- Website/Social Media
Team Time

✓ Action Plan Instructions
✓ Break
✓ Team Time
✓ Share Out

Workshop Model

- Invitation to campus: form teams
- Two days in January (winter term)
  - Learn, discuss, develop action plans
- Implement plans during spring semester
- Two days in May (end of finals week)
  - Share, discuss, learn more, revise action plans
- Implement plans through next academic year
  - Progress check, share posters at Assessment Day
LEAP Workshops

• Since 2011:
  135 LEAP action teams, 651 participants
• Faculty, staff, administrators and students
• $800 stipend per person
• Common LEAP language: new collaborations
• Challenges and barriers

Open Discussion

What are your thoughts, reactions, questions?
We are responsible both individually and collectively for the fate of our universities and higher education.

Always remember our noble sense of purpose.

Thank you!
Evaluation.