Making Connections: A Multi-Learning Community Assessment

Presentation for NACTA 2019
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Learning Communities at Purdue:
- Similar-interest themes
- Multiple courses
- Residential component option
- Extra-curricular activities

Student experience/learning:
- Resources available
- Network
- Create lasting friendships
- Broad learning experience
- HAVE FUN!
SURVEY POPULATION

STUDENTS ENROLLED IN:

Discovering Agribusiness LC (DALC) - Fall & Spring
- Tours and speakers exposing the breadth & depth in the value chain of food & resources

Study Plants at Purdue (SPAP) - Fall only
- Tours and speakers related to Plants at Purdue

Agriculture Technology & Innovation (ATCH) - Fall only
- Tours and speakers related to Agriculture Technology
METHODS AND RESPONSES

• Qualtrics survey sent out on BlackBoard Learn and/or e-mail
  • Students indicated if their answers could be used for a research study before completing questions
    • Why they joined
    • Experiences & perceptions of college value
    • Career readiness
    • Leadership competencies

• 74% Representation
  • 55 Usable surveys from 74 total students

“Involved students lead to higher alumni well-being and employee engagement.”
(Gallup-Purdue Index report)
DEMOGRAPHIC DATA

LC Participants

- 47.3% Dept
- 30.9% College
- 21.8% DALC

- 29 in DALC
- 26 in College

SPAP Pie Chart
Why did they choose their learning community?

Rate the strength of all reasons why you chose this Learning Community. 100 points to allocate - maximum of 75 to one category.

- Connection to Industry / Career / Professionalism: 12.864
- To Learn New things: 12.831
- Fellowship / Peer Networking: 12.136
- Fun Experiences outside Classroom: 11.610
- Matched My Interests: 10.203
- Helpful Knowledge for My Major: 9.339
- Acclimate to College: 8.966
- Connect with Faculty/Staff: 8.610
- It was Highly Recommended: 7.339
- Study Help / Academic Focus: 6.102
While enrolled in this learning community, I...
0 – 4  None/Not at All, A Little, Somewhat, A Lot,  All the Time
Post-Learning Community Experience Benefits

After participating in this learning community...
1-5: Strongly Disagree, Somewhat Disagree, Neither A/D, Somewhat Agree, Strongly Agree

- Belong at Purdue: 4.627
- Belong in College of Agriculture: 4.458
- Can achieve my goals: 4.441
- Ready to positively contribute to society: 4.237
- Learned something new & interesting: 4.220
- Helpful in exploring career options: 4.190
- Useful to connect to College of Ag: 4.186
- Learned something new about my major: 4.169
- Instructors cared about me as a person: 4.153
- LC was valuable experience: 4.103
- Set new goals for future: 4.052
- Feel more prepared for next semester: 4.034
My Learning Community Experience contributed to gaining knowledge or honing my skills in the following competencies….

1-3: None/Not at All, A Little, A Lot
Action Steps:

● Recruiting
  ○ Building clear messaging

● Advising
  ○ Making connections
  ○ Advocate for programs and students

● Course & Curriculum design
  ○ Teamwork
  ○ Real-world
  ○ Rigor
  ○ Industry
  ○ Active

● …
Building and Replicating Learning Communities at Purdue:

- Pitfalls
  - Motivation
  - Engagement
- Benefits
  - Students prosper
  - Relationships
- Limitations
  - Support & Time
  - Competition

Continuing the Research
- Scale
- Sophistication
Questions & Discussion

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Purdue LC website
https://www.purdue.edu/learningcommunities/students/why_join.html
Purdue Leadership Competencies
https://www.purdue.edu/vpsl/leadership/myExperience/Competencies_List.html
National Association of Colleges and Employers (NACE)
http://www.naceweb.org/career-readiness/competencies/career-readiness-defined/
Gallup-Purdue Index (GPI) survey on Well-Being

THANK YOU!
Why did they choose their Learning Community?

- Career: 13.609
- Learn: 13.109
- Networking: 12.935
- Fun: 11.0
- Interests: 10.565
- Helpful: 9.435
- Acclimation: 8.978
- Faculty/Staff: 8.457
- Recommended: 6.739
- Academic: 5.174
While enrolled in this learning community, I...

1-5
None/Not at All  A Little  Somewhat  A Lot  All the Time
After participating in this learning community...

1-5
Strongly Disagree    Somewhat Disagree    Neither A/D    Somewhat Agree    Strongly Agree
My Learning Community Experience contributed to gaining knowledge or honing my skills in the following competencies.

1-3
None/Not at All     A Little     A Lot