

Conference Proceeding Submission

Title of submission: Creating an Interdisciplinary Community at a Community College in California

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Abstract of paper:

This is a presentation of 1) a web-training course for Learning Community faculty members, and 2) the initiation and coordination of a Learning Communities program at Fresno City College in California. The web course is composed of five modules. This first module is an overview and orientation of the theories and practices of Learning Communities instruction. The second module is a hands-on interdisciplinary curriculum planning training. Instructors need to collaborate with teaching partners from different disciplines in curriculum planning and implementation. They are also strongly encouraged to adopt technological resources such as online discussions, Camtasia, Quicktime, and other Blackboard courseware tool. The third module involves evaluation of student learning outcomes and nuts and bolts of interdisciplinary instruction. In this component, different models of classroom assessment techniques will be discussed and compared for their effectiveness, based on the diverse needs of students in various Learning Community cohorts. The fourth module introduces instructional technologies and collaborative class projects, including online group assignments, which are designed to promote a sense of community among and between students and instructors. The fifth module discusses the integration of a Student Success course to Learning Community content courses for the purpose of increasing student retention and success.

A student evaluation of Learning Community classes of Spring 2002 and instructor evaluation of their instructional activities will be presented as well.