Learning Communities at Purdue

Computer Science Corporate Partners Meeting
Monday, September 16, 2013

PURDUE
U N I V E R S I T Y

STUDENT SUCCESS AT PURDUE

Philosophy and Definition

Learning Communities are:
- Small groups (20-30 students)
- Academic and/or residential in nature
- Intentional
- Collaborative
- Connective
- Experiential
- Focused on learning outcomes
- SUCCESSFUL because of
    Learning Community Instructors

Philosophy and Definition

Distinguishing Features:
- Aligned under the Provost Office
- Not administered under University Residences
- Centralized programmatic facilitation
- Specific academic foundation
- Driven by Learning Community Instructors (LCIs)
- Events and activities are the core of program
- Categorical assessment indicates retention gains

Philosophy and Definition

What Learning Communities Accomplish:
- Outstanding student experience
- Social and academic foundations
- Opportunity for networking
- Exploration of a major, field or interest
- Hands on applications
- Introduction to resources (campus/community)
- Sense of belonging as a large school becomes smaller
- Smoother transition, leading to persistence in academics

Metric Milestones

How do we know? Metric Milestones!!
Number of…

- Events planned

- Points of participation

- Free events planned

- Contact hours

Metric Milestones

Number of events planned

2009:   143

2010:   243

2011:   538

2012:   726

Increase: 37%!!

Percent increase since 2009: 408%!!!

Metric Milestones

Number of points of participation:

2009:   2,423

2010:   4,275

2011:   6,695

2012:   7,298

Percent increase: 20%!!!
Percent increase since 2009: 201%!!!

Metric Milestones

Number of points of free events planned:

2009:   29

2010:   82

2011:   301

2012:   384

Percent increase: 27.6%
Percent increase since 2009: 852%!!!

Metric Milestones

Number of contact hours:

2009:   8,117

2010:   14,730

2011:   15,853

2012:   26,254

Percent increase: 54%!!!
Percent increase since 2009: 223%!!!
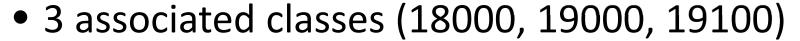
Metric Milestones

Handouts:

- 1-year retention rates typically 3-4 points higher than the University rate

- Up to 7-11 points higher in some demographics

- Graduation rates

Computer Science Learning Community

- New for Fall 2013

- Design and structure:
    - 3 associated classes (18000, 19000, 19100)
    - Labs and recitations are LC-student-unique
    - 3 LC sections, 20 students each
    - Residential requirement
    - Led by 3 professional staff academic advisors
    - Event/activity planning and execution

Computer Science Learning Community

- 152 Applicants
- 61 placed
- 58 participating

- Participant Profile:
  - 51 Males (88%), 7 females (12%)
  - 8 International students (14%)
  - 10 URM students (17%)
  - 21 minority students (includes Asian-American) (36%)

Computer Science Learning Community

- Sample Events:

    - Academic Resources Scavenger Hunt
    - Brainstorming Breakfast
    - Labor Day Barbeque
    - CS Football PU vs. ISU
    - CS Learning Community Wolf Park Trip
    - Pre-Career Fair Prep
    - Wabash National
    - Museum of Science & Industry

Questions and Discussion

Thank you!