Florida Atlantic University  
Center for Teaching and Learning  
Faculty Learning Community 2011-2012

Research, Creative and Scholarly Activities into the Undergraduate Curriculum*

Facilitators:  
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Focus:  
This learning community will focus on helping faculty identify ways to integrate research, creative and scholarly activities into the different disciplines as an approach to engage motivated students. We will explore best practices for cultivating and supporting a research-focused curriculum, involving inquiry based learning and hands-on learning to improve students’ ability to problem-solve, work in multi-disciplinary teams, expose them to ethics in research and information literacy, and provide practical opportunities to apply written and oral communication skills and discipline-specific techniques and competencies.

Participants in this FLC will: (1) identify what motivates student learning in these settings; (2) study and discuss implementation as it applies to their individual disciplines; (3) identify strategies to overcome challenges and barriers among the different disciplines; (4) provide examples that can be included into both lower (e.g. General Education) and upper division curricula, and (5) discuss methods of supporting the development of individual student success in these settings. We will then implement specific strategies in our classrooms as a way of promoting self-discovery and student-centered learning success.

Outcomes:  
As a group this FLC will develop a “best practices” guide with example materials which will (1) provide a set of recommendations on how research can be defined for each college or participating department, including commonalities among all the disciplines; (2) provide a model and discipline-specific examples of how these strategies can be included into lower and upper division curricula (3) develop and implement new course materials and assessment tools, with measurable student outcomes and (4) disseminate these findings across the institution. The outcomes and discussions with participating faculty members through this FLC may also yield one or more publications or development of a website to be shared with the FAU community. Use and impact of the best practices guide will be assessed.

Each participant will be expected to contribute to the following tasks:
• Attend and actively participate in FLC meetings during the 2011-2012 academic year.
• Design, implement, and assess at least two specific activities in a course that utilizes the ideas and materials discussed in the FLC
• Support each other in implementing (or continuous improvement of) these ideas in existing or future courses, with the goal of developing a best practices document
• Work to build capacity to improve these experiences throughout FAU. This can be accomplished at the widely successful university-wide conferences, such as the Teaching with Technology Showcase or the Faculty-Community Connections Workshop
As faculty participants identify and begin implementing these strategies in their undergraduate courses, we will produce student outcomes. Students will be able to appreciate, understand and apply the intellectual methods and tools by which research, creative and scholarly activities are conducted in the different disciplines.

**Potential Meeting Times**

The learning community will meet during Fall 2011 and Spring 2012 semester on Fridays on the Boca Raton campus. The specific time to be determined according to the schedules and preferences of the FLC members. In order to encourage broader participation by interested faculty, the learning community may meet in video conferencing rooms for real-time interaction with members off campus and post recordings of FLC session in a blackboard community.

**Stipend:**

You will receive a $1,000 stipend for your active participation in the FLC and upon fulfilling all FLC expectations. These expectations include attendance at 80% of the group meetings, participation in development of the best practices document and other projects associated with this FLC and the communication of the project outcomes, and completion of the end of experience feedback survey.

**Note:**

* This FLC is being conducted in conjunction with the university Quality Enhancement Program in compliance with SACS reaccreditation requirements. As such, the work produced by this FLC will be included in the compliance reporting for SACS reaccreditation. Participants in all QEP-related FLCs will meet periodically throughout the year to assess their work and contribute to QEP planning.