

Minnesota State University, Mankato

Learning Communities: Engaging Our Students

Kate J. Hansen
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Learning Community Components Community Development

- Residential Life
- Friendships
- Peer mentor (LCC)
- Social and academic support
- Connection to major
- Connections to faculty and staff
- Service
- Common read

Learning Communities Course Connections

Example Courses Offered:

Dental Hygiene courses offered:

Fall Semester

- DHYG 100 – Dental Hyg. Perspectives
- BIOL 220 – Human Anatomy
- HLTH 101 – Health and the Environment
- CMST 100 – Fund. Of Speech Communication
- FYEX 100 – First Year Seminar

Total of 12 Credits

Elementary Ed courses offered:

Fall Semester

- AST 101 – Introduction to Astronomy
- ENG 101 – English Composition
- FYEX 100 – First Year Seminar

Total of 8 Credits

Learning Communities From Ideas to Implementation

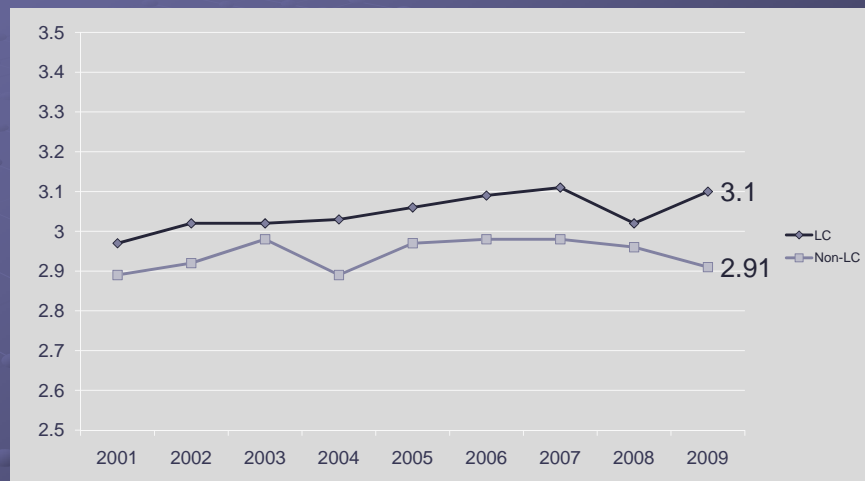


Learning Communities Student Involvement



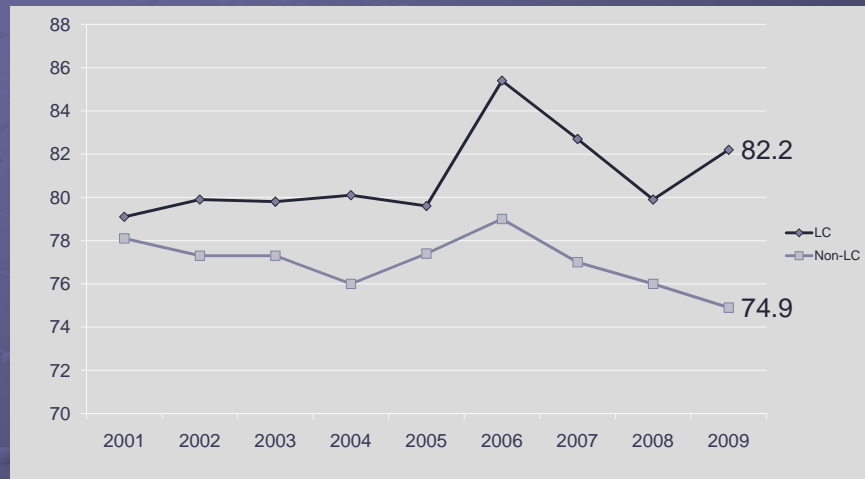
Who chooses to get involved and why?

MSU Learning Community Data Grade Point Average



Source: MSU Institutional Research, 9/10

MSU Learning Community Data Retention Rate



Source: MSU Institutional Research, 9/10

MSU Learning Community Data Economic Impact 2009-2010

- Retention rate difference of 7.3%
- 264 first-year LC students
- 7.3% of 264 students = approx. 19 students
- \$3,362 tuition and fees per semester
- \$63,878 in additional revenue to MSU for just one semester

Learning Community Data Nationwide

- Develop a network of peers
- Greater diversity of experiences
- Report high quality of social climate
- Engage in more informal contact with faculty
- Report more intellectual atmosphere in residence hall

Learning Community Data Nationwide

- Connect social and academic lives
- Perform better academically and are more likely to persist in college
- Have better class attendance
- Become active participants in their education
- More involved in academic and special activities
- Enjoy a welcoming and supportive campus climate

Source: National Center on Teaching and Learning Assessment

Learning Communities Drawbacks

- “Hyperbonding”
- Cliques
- Competition

www.mnsu.edu/fye/communities/faculty

Learning Communities Faculty Involvement

- Propose a learning community
- Teach in a learning community
- Be a fan and supporter

Questions?

Kate Hansen
Assistant Director for Academic Initiatives
Office of First Year Experience
507-389-5498
kate.hansen@mnsu.edu