President’s Fall Retreat  
Gustavus Adolphus College  
Tuesday, August 12, 2014  

Table Topic 14  
Expanding Learning Communities for Student & Faculty Success  
Facilitators: Kimberly Greer & Anne Dahlman

- Participants: 8

- Key Discussion Points:
  - There are student groups who are currently not served by the residential learning communities designed for traditional Newly Enrolled Freshmen, for example:
    - Online students
    - Non-traditional students
    - Graduate students
    - Commuters
    - Students with substantial external responsibilities (FT employment, family, etc.)
    - Veterans
  - We need to better understand the characteristics, needs and preferences of the 21st century college student and tailor our learning communities to meet those needs
  - Iowa State provides a model of what’s working with Learning Communities

- Recommended Actions or Next Steps:
  - Consider allowing students to initiate and (co)facilitate learning communities
  - Consider online communities (extend existing face-to-face communities, e.g., course-based or create new ones)
  - Consider creating heterogeneous learning communities, including students from various stages of their studies, across disciplines, include community members, peer-mentors, etc.
  - Carefully consider which student groups, currently not involved in learning communities, would most significantly benefit from an opportunity to be involved in one and study what these learning communities would look like based on their unique needs (think outside of the box!)