

FOR LEARNING COMMUNITIES FEATURES THAT MATTER---

- **Intentional links between courses---integration of material and experiences across courses; AND links to other courses**
- **Need for instructional teams and investment in faculty development**
- **Active attempt to get students to collaborate and to study and work together**
- **Use of engaging pedagogies**
- **An integrative experience/assignment**
 - **(Jillian Kinzie, 2012)**

LEARNING COMMUNITIES: FEATURES THAT MATTER

Be intentional in linking courses; integration of material, assignments, and experiences across courses; AND links to other courses

Support students in traditional gateway courses and “weed-out” courses that have high rates of failure

Consider tying an extended orientation or integrative seminar to the learning community

Use instructional teams whenever possible: faculty, advisers, librarians, and technology professionals

Invest in faculty development to ensure that courses are fully integrated, with coordinated materials, assignments, out-of-class trips, and grading rubrics

At least one of the linked courses is writing- or inquiry-intensive or has a service-learning component

LEARNING COMMUNITIES

FEATURES THAT MATTER

Instructors teaching the linked courses use engaging pedagogies and also structure class activities and design assignments that require students to integrate and apply material from one course to another, such as reflective journaling and class discussion

Active attempt to get students to collaborate and to study and work together

Peer mentors facilitate student participation in out-of-class activities that complement the learning goals of the linked courses

Learning community students and peer mentors live on campus in close proximity

One learning community instructor is the academic advisor for the students in the learning community for the first year