STUDENT SUCCESS!
First Year Experience Learning Community and PUENTE Program

Looking at the FYE and PUENTE Latino Students and the college library

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Agenda

• Activity
• Your Expectations
• My experience
• Samples
• Sharing
• Questions?
Activity-

1. What kinds of patrons/users do you think a community college library serves?

2. What do you think the patron/user of an academic library looks like?

Be ready to share what you came up with. Share with the person next to you.
What is a Learning Community?

• Learning Communities link two or more classes together with a common theme, content, and integrative assignment.
• The intentional creation of class pairs or clusters around a common theme or concept.
• The same group of students is co-enrolled in two or more courses, usually from different disciplines—for instance, library, art, and English OR library, career guidance, and English, etc.
• Students enroll in courses but receive a separate grade for each one.
Teaching Outcomes from Learning Communities?

• Increased student success
• High level of enthusiasm for learning
• Ownership of learning
• Collaboration
• High retention rates
• High levels of satisfaction
Defining Concepts

First-Generation: First to attend College or a University in their family

First-Year Experience: It’s usually the first year or freshman year in college for the student

First
Latino Learning Preferences

• Social Learning
  • Cooperation
  • Supportive environment
  • Constructive Criticism
• Appreciates feedback
  • Prefers to receive feedback without anyone else around
    • Collaborative rather than individual
Teach the Essentials
Less is More
Latino Student

- Is a Social Learner
- Develops relationships
- Creates a support network
  - Students turn to their peers for answers first rather than seek the assistance of instructors.
Uncover Rather Than “Cover” the material
Culture Does Matter

• Students from Latino, Hispanic and other ethnic groups do well in college if faculty of their own ethnic group is present at their college. It makes a difference!

• Why?
  • Empathy
  • Share anecdotes or life experiences
  • You are a member of their community
  • Role model
Sample Innovation... leads to Assignment

• Evaluating sources for validity
  • Have students share websites that have been helpful to them. For homework, ask them to bring some websites. But have them review some good and bad websites too. Also have them read the criteria on how to evaluate websites.

Discussion:
  • In the class have them work in groups or pairs to try to identify why those websites are good or bad.
  • Ask them to list the reasons why the websites are good.
  • Don’t tell them which ones are good or bad. They need to try to figure it out!
Trick of the Trade

• Give a big warm hug!
  • What????
     • No, just a warm welcome. Yes, it’s helps!
       • Try to send out a “welcome” e-mail to the students prior to the first meeting. If you can, send them the syllabus and your class expectations.
       • Sometimes the students may feel inclined to ask you questions about the course if you reach out to them first.

• The Learning Community Program on our campus invites all the students to a welcome night or orientation prior to the semester starting. I make it a point to attend every semester.
  • Your students appreciate that you are taking the time to get to know them. A little effort goes a long way!
  • They feel more comfortable when they start the semester.
Fostering Collegiality

• You make long life friends
• A source for feedback
• Professional development and training
• Fresh approaches to teaching
• Collaboration with colleagues
Other Types of Learning Communities or Collaborations

• University and public library partners
• Legal research courses
• Medical or Allied Science courses
• What else?
PUENTE Program 2012 Spring Break University Trip to UC Berkeley and UC Santa Cruz
PUENTE Mentee and Mentor – 2011 & 2012
Resources/Support

• You

• Me

• Quien mas? No mas!
For More Information...

Cerritos College Learning Community Program
  FYE Program
  http://cms.cerritos.edu/lcp

Cerritos College PUENTE Program
  http://cms.cerritos.edu/puente/

PUENTE – A National Model for Student Success
  http://puente.ucop.edu/

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