

# Student Learning Communities

## The Effect of Companion Learning Communities at Two- and Four-Year Institutions on Success Rates and Retention of Students

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## What is a Learning Community?

- Communities consist of two to five classes
- The same students register for all the classes in the community
- Faculty teaching classes in the community coordinate the curricula so that students can see the inter-relationships between subjects
- Faculty collaborate to advise students and provide extra support for student success
- Students receive support from their peers in the community



## Examples of Learning Communities at GPC

- First Year College Survival
  - HEDS, ATEC, Engl 0098, Read 0097, Math 0097
- College and Careers
  - HEDS, ATEC, Engl 1101, Math 1111
- Revolution and Rebellion
  - Engl 1101, Hist 2111, Pols 1101



## Examples of Learning Communities at GPC continued

- Math/Science
  - Chem 1211, Chem 1211L, Math 1113
- Humanities
  - Engl 1101, Comm 1201, Humn 1305
- ESL/Art Appreciation
  - ESL 0090, Arts 1301



## Seamless Learning Transfer Consortium (SLTC)

- FIPSE Funded
- 3 Pairs of two- & four-year institutions
  - Portland State/Clackamas Community College
  - Alverno College/Waukesha County Technical College
  - Georgia State/Georgia Perimeter College
- Project Goals
  - Student success in transfer
  - Alignment of standards for achievement
  - Use of electronic portfolios as a tool for transfer

## Perimeter College/Georgia State Collaboration

- Barrier to transfer is cultural
- Similar first year experience
- Companion Learning communities
  - Pairing of LC's on both campuses
  - Faculty collaboration
  - GPC and GSU students interact via e-portfolios and by campus visits



## The Experience

- Community building
  - Faculty interaction
  - Group development among students
  - Social events with students
  - Diversity training



## The Experience

- Georgia State Day
- Self reflection
- Guest speakers
- E-portfolios



## Use Of Electronic Portfolios As A Tool For Transfer

### Description of Activities:

- Students in Freshman Seminar participated in a project to create electronic portfolios.
- Students received substantial credit toward their final grades.
- Instructors coordinated efforts so that students in both classes created and shared similar electronic portfolios.
- Instructions on downloading the portfolios were provided so that students could continue to work on their portfolios on their own after the semester if they so desired.



## E-portfolio Elements

- Personal photograph
- Motto
- Symbol
- Statement of goals
- Representations of academic work
- E-mail link and institution link



*Chalk & Wire platform*





