



# Learning Communities: Assessment, Communication, and Action

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*Summer Institute on First Year Assessment  
July 2004*



## CONTEXT

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- Learning Communities at Appalachian
  - Freshman Seminar
  - Freshman Learning Communities in General Studies
  - Watauga College
  - Honors Program
  - Student Support Services

# Curriculum-Based Learning Communities: A Continuum of Offerings

Fewer curricular connections-----Greater curricular connections

<p><b>Special interest groups with shared experiences</b></p>	<p><b>Linked classes and academic experiences</b></p>	<p><b>Learning Clusters; FIGS</b></p>	<p><b>Coordinated Studies</b></p>
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Watauga College (144)

Honors (240)

Teaching Fellows (60)  
ARMY ROTC (50)

Summer Preview (131)

Freshman Learning Communities in  
General Studies (1446)

Appalachian State University – Freshman Learning Community Options



## LC Assessment, Communication and Action

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- Assessment has been a part of our learning communities for quite some time
- Some institutional questions and purposes
  - What experiences are students having in learning communities at Appalachian?
  - What are we doing well?
  - What can we improve?
  - Retention – what we use; what we avoid
  - Accreditation (SACS)



# LC Assessment, Communication and Action

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- Specific Assessment Activities
  - Focus Groups
    - Students
    - Faculty
    - Advisors



# LC Assessment, Communication and Action

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- Specific Assessment Activities
  - Surveys/Questionnaires
    - Learning Communities Experiences Questionnaire (LCEQ-36, Indiana State University)
    - College Student Expectations vs. College Student Experiences (CSXQ-CSEQ)
    - Noel Levitz College Student Inventory (CSI)
    - NSSE
    - EBI-First Year Initiative Study (FYI)



# LC Assessment, Communication and Action

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- Specific Assessment Activities
  - Retention Studies
    - Persistence
    - Success (PGPA/GPA)



# Assessing Our Learning Communities

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- Using the Results
  - Freshman Seminar Modifications
    - Increase Freshman Seminar Sections
    - Link all Freshman Seminars
  - Develop Non-Freshman Seminar Links
  - Increased Funding for LCs
  - CSI, and other assessment, Administration
  - Improved Communication Processes
  - Increased Grant Applications
  - Presentations



# Assessing Our Learning Communities

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## ○ Future Plans

- *Foundations of Excellence* Self Study
- Study more of our campus “learning communities”
- Study non-LC students
- Specific projects conducted by HPC 6330: Assessment and Program Evaluation in Student Affairs



## Contact Information

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## Contact Information

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### Survey Websites:

- CSXQ/CSEQ  
<http://www.indiana.edu/~cseq/>
- EBI-FYI  
<http://www.webebi.com>
- Noel-Levitz CSI  
[http://www.noellevitz.com/solutions/retention/rms\\_csi/index.asp](http://www.noellevitz.com/solutions/retention/rms_csi/index.asp)