Engaging Campus with LEAP Workshops: Five Years of Progress

Greg Cook, Brent Bilodeau, & Joan Cook
University of Wisconsin – Whitewater

Liberal Education & America’s Promise (LEAP)

“Launched in 2005, LEAP challenges the traditional practice of providing liberal education to some students and narrow training to others. LEAP engages the public with core questions about what really matters in college; connects employers and educational leaders as they make the case for the importance of liberal education in the global economy and in our diverse democracy; and helps all students achieve the essential learning outcomes. Through LEAP, AAC&U calls on the United States to ‘make excellence inclusive’ so that all students receive the best and most powerful preparation for work, life, and citizenship.”

quoted from the Association of American Colleges & Universities at http://aacu.org/leap/

LEAP Workshops

Beginning in 2011, students, faculty, staff, and all employees have been invited to form teams to learn about LEAP and develop action plans to improve teaching, learning, life, and work at UW-Whitewater.

Workshop Schedule:
- 2 days in January: learn together and develop action plans
- Spring semester: teams implement short-term action plans
- 2 days in May: share experiences, dig deeper, revise plans
- Next academic year: teams implement longer-term action plans

Workshops Include These LEAP Elements:
- Essential Learning Outcomes
- Principles of Excellence
- High-Impact Educational Practices
- Inclusive Excellence
- VALUE Rubrics

Participation Across the Years:
- 2011: 57 participants on 17 teams
- 2012: 102 participants on 23 teams
- 2013: 118 participants on 21 teams
- 2014: 154 participants on 24 teams
- 2015: 123 participants on 28 teams
- Totals: 554* Participants on 113 LEAP Teams

*487 are unique participants (not repeating the workshop)

Conclusions

Surveys conducted before and after the January workshop (see charts, right) indicate that knowledge of LEAP has increased from 2011 to 2015. Participants report substantial increases in knowledge after participation in the 2-day January workshop.

Participants also report high levels of confidence that our campus can collaborate in positive ways around LEAP and confidence that concrete actions can be achieved during the spring and next academic year. For more information, click here.

LET’S LEAP!!!