

## **Learning Community Institute: Grant Task 1.7.4**

### **Executive Summary**

Evaluation surveys were administered electronically prior to the institute and at the completion of the institute as a means to assess institute effectiveness, improve future workshops, and help fulfill the Title III Grant requirements for documentation.

The Learning Community Institute resulted in significant improvement in participants' self-reported knowledge and abilities related to what a learning community is, development of community goals/expectations, learning community specific instructional strategies, and assessment strategies.

#### **Strengths of the Activity**

- Participants had the largest increase in their ability to develop instructional strategies for teaching in a learning community.
- Participants greatly increased their understanding of what a learning community is and how to assess student learning in learning communities.
- Participants increased their ability to create goals/expectations for their learning community and to develop effective strategies for assessing student learning in learning communities.
- Participants perceived learning communities as a valuable tool to assess student learning before and even more so after participation in the institute.
- Seven of 9 survey respondents stated that they achieved the objectives set prior to the institute.
- The most useful information/activities included discussions and collaboration with learning community agents and the presentation on the background of learning communities and their importance.
- All post-survey respondents stated that they would recommend the institute to other programs.

#### **Opportunities to Improve Future Institutes**

- Post information and resources on planning and assessment tools on D2L.
- Provide additional examples of what other learning communities are doing.
  - Invite other learning communities to share their experiences.
- Provide additional information or assistance on developing effective strategies for assessing student learning in learning communities.
- Consider increasing the number of participants.

**Action Plan for Current Institute**

- Scheduled follow-up for following academic year:
  - Follow-up team progress
  - Provide further support based on needs
  - Allow groups to share their success stories and assessment tools