Using Learning Communities to Help Adult Education Students Transition to College
The Problem

College Level Classes

Beginning ESL
Intermediate ESL
Advanced ESL
Solutions?

https://www.gtcf.org/about/our-work/learning-communities-2/

https://www.tctc.edu/programs/transition-programs-resources/i-best/
What is a learning community?
How were learning communities created?

> Faculty collaboration
> Administrative buy in
English 101/ESL level 10 learning community
Success by the numbers

Student Success English 101

Source: IR Data and Colleague
Business Communications/ESL level 7 learning community
Success by the numbers

Business 101

- Non LC
- LC

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<tr>
<th>Year</th>
<th>Non LC</th>
<th>LC</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Fall 2015</td>
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<td>Fall 2016</td>
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Kiyoko M

Hard Worker. Goal-Oriented, Action-Focused. 
ENFJ
Member of Client Committee

Kiyoko originally came from Japan and was an architect. She also volunteered extensively - often as a tutor or eductator.

She is building English skills to help her reach her goal of becoming a successful real estate investor.

She sees the partnership as vital in helping her gain experiences that will help her achieve her goals.
Challenges

> Finding faculty
> Recruitment
> Financial challenges for students
> Enrollment
> Coordination between departments
> Systemic issues
> Data collection issues

https://www.humanresourcesonline.net/6-challenges-hr-will-face-2016/
Of the students who participated in an ESL Learning Community (through fall 2018),

> 38 (31%) went on to take ENG-102 with a 95% success rate.

> 82 (67%) went on to take additional college classes (not ESL).

> 1302.5 credit hours were generated by these students.

> 20 degrees and/or certificates have been completed.

https://academics.umw.edu/academic-services/student-success-resources/
Next steps

> Expand learning community programming
> Accelerated Learning Program (ALP)
> Apprenticeship/ pre-apprenticeship programming
> Curricular revisions
> Classroom presentations
Questions?
I have the desire to be better in all aspects of my life. I am in learning community because I want to change my thoughts, my bad habits, and my life. I do not want a common life. I would like to do different things that help me not only to improve professionally but as person. I want to study a career, work hard, and succeed. I want to improve my English skill, but most important for me is to learn how to communicate with others.

BUS LC - Fa18
Student testimonials...

I think that it is important for people like us that we do not have experience in a high school classroom or college classroom. It takes away our fear to face a regular class.

BUS101 LC - Fa16
At this point, I realize that I have improved my writing in many ways. Now I can write longer, structured, and detailed papers, so those papers are more interesting. In addition, I have improved my own life by overcoming the fear of taking classes at the university. I know I have a long way to achieve my goal, but I am taking small steps one at a time. I am very proud of myself for not giving up and for putting effort to improve my writing.

Rosa (English 101/ESL 10)
Every time we start a new journey or a new job, buy a new house or car, we worry too much because it is so uncertain how things will go. But with this learning experience, I just realized that nothing is impossible or too hard for you if you try it; the only person that backs you off and puts limits on you is your own self. I think that from now on I will take the quote from the hero’s journey and make it my own motivational daily phrase because it is so true what Joseph Campbell wrote in *The Hero of a Thousand Faces* that says that “The cave you fear to enter holds the treasure you seek.” I’m so thankful and glad that I listened to my relative’s advice and took the decision to enroll in this class because I can tell that I’m not only building a second language skill, but I’m building a new me that is not fearful anymore to seek her own treasure.

Estela (English 101/ESL 10)