

PRACTICES EXCHANGE

NEWSLETTER

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Issue 6

Institutional Resources/Practices

Experiential Learning

Finlandia University (MI) offers its students a unique experiential course via the Finlandia University Experimental Learning (FUEL) Studio and Gift Shop, a student-run retail and consignment business which is open to the public. The FUEL course brings in new students each semester who lead the store by setting entrepreneurship goals, bringing in new items to sell, and implementing their own improvements. FUEL Studio and Gift Shop offers a variety of items, including art by Finlandia students and faculty, as well as locally made or distributed items such as coffee, candy, jams, candles, jewelry, art, purses, knitwear and clothing. The FUEL course is open to students from all disciplines, with the result that students get to see and share entrepreneurship priorities and solutions through a variety of disciplinary perspectives. For further information contact: Fredi de Yampert, VPAA, fredi.deyampert@finlandia.edu.

Mid-term and Exam Preparation Support

Each semester at **Mount Aloysius College** (PA), the Office of Student Success & Advising and the Learning Commons hold two All-College Study Nights from 5–10pm, hours which seem to work well for both residents and commuters. Held just before mid-terms and finals, these events bring students, faculty, and tutors together to help students prepare for the upcoming tests. The Study Nights are held in the Library/Learning Commons so that professors and tutors can meet with students individually or in groups. For those students who are working on papers, librarians are also available to help with research or reference citations. Typically around 200 students attend. Food and prizes are provided as well as yoga sessions featuring breathing and other relaxation techniques. Students have indicated they find it a fun, casual environment where they are more comfortable asking questions and seeking help. For further information, contact Heather Low, Director of Student Success, hlow@mtaloy.edu.

Member Institution Recognition

New YWMC member **Augsburg University**, (MN), recently received the “To & Through” Award of Excellence at NCAN’s 2017 National Conference in San Diego, CA. The award, presented by Gloria Nemerowicz, YWMC President and NCAN Board of Directors Vice President, recognizes an institution that collaborates with an NCAN-member college access or success organization to ensure that the organization’s students — as well as all enrolled under-represented students — get the supports they need to complete a two-year or four-year degree.

Augsburg University has a longstanding relationship with NCAN member College Possible, which nominated the institution for the award. In 2006, administrators expanded a year-old scholarship for entering students to create the Augsburg Promise Award, a full-ride scholarship for Pell Grant-eligible students who had participated in a college access program and maintained a 3.25 GPA. The award grew to include an admissions outreach program, in which busloads of College Possible students visited the campus, while admissions staff began speaking to students at local high schools and throughout the community.

In 2010, Augsburg became one of the first institutions with a College Possible campus-based “college coach,” who assists incoming freshmen in transitioning to and staying on track in higher education. The impact is clear: the six-year graduation rate for College Possible students starting at Augsburg skyrocketed from 40.7 percent for the class of 2009 to 68.9 percent for the class of 2012 — the latter of which just completed only its fifth year of enrollment, leaving another year for completion to climb even higher. For further information, contact: Catherine (Katie) Bishop, Chief Student Success Officer, bishopc@augsborg.edu.

Submissions for Future Issues

YWM members are encouraged to submit examples of practices and/or resources to share with your YWM colleagues. We are particularly interested in examples of teaching and learning strategies you have found to be effective in promoting student success. Send brief descriptions and any accompanying materials to Nia Chester, YWM Program Manager, niachester@gmail.com.