

Action Project

Institution: Community College of Denver
Submitted: June 11, 2007
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Timeline:

Planned project kickoff date: -- March 12, 2007

Target completion date: -- May 30, 2008

Actual completion date: --

A. Give this Action Project a short title in 10 words or fewer:

Recommit to Learning College Principles

B. Describe this Action Project's goal in 100 words or fewer:

The Community College of Denver was selected as one of twelve Vanguard Colleges by the League for Innovation in the Community College for its role as a learning college (2000). Since that time period, CCD has drifted away from the learning college philosophy, but as a result of the Strategic Planning team and the Academic Quality Improvement Program team efforts, the college is ready to recommit to the learning college principles. The learning college involves students as equal partners, identifies roles for faculty and staff by learners' needs, offers professional development focused on learning and retention, offers extensive programs/options/services for under-prepared students, and identifies, measures, and embeds outcomes into the curriculum. The Community College of Denver will focus on becoming more learning centered.

C. Identify the single AQIP Category which the Action Project will most affect or impact:

Helping Students Learn.

D. Describe briefly your institution's reasons for taking on this Action Project now -- why the project and its goals are high among your current priorities: _

The Community College of Denver was involved in the Learning College Project (2000) sponsored by the League for Innovation to assist colleges around the world to become more learning-centered

institutions. CCD was chosen by an international advisory panel of leading educators to help develop model programs and best practices. The Community College of Denver developed learning college principles around specific innovative initiatives that related to the mission and vision of the college. Innovation is still the norm at CCD (i.e. student advising, developmental education, faculty orientation and development, learning communities, project-based learning, applications of technology to improve teaching and learning, FastStart, College Connection, Open entry classes, Accelerated classes, Summer Bridge, Case Management and partnerships with businesses, community organizations, universities and public schools). The learning college philosophy is already embedded in our special initiatives and our day-to-day operations. CCD needs to recommit to the “Learning College Principles” to bring students back to the forefront in our thinking and planning.

E. List the organizational areas - -institutional departments, programs, divisions, or units -- most affected by or involved in this Action Project:

Recommitting to “Learning College Principles” will be a college-wide effort but will impact Student and Enrollment Services and Learning and Academic Affairs more directly because of the day-to-day contact with students.

F. Name and describe briefly the key organizational process(es) that you expect this Action Project to change or improve:

CCD will develop and strengthen policies, programs, and practices across the institution with a focus on the following:

1. Define Learning College and revise Learning College Principles
2. Define buy-in strategies that include adjunct faculty, FT faculty, all departments, all levels
3. Identify how Learning College principles translate into student performance, assessment and retention.
4. Identify critical problems and issues around the following:
 - a. Learning Outcomes
 - b. Technology
 - c. Staff Recruitment and Development
 - d. Student Engagement
 - e. Organizational Culture
 - f. Funding

G. Explain the rationale for the length of time planned for this Action Project (from kickoff to target completion):

Recommitting to the Learning College Principles will require buy-in by all employee groups at CCD. Meetings, seminars, workshops and planning meetings will have to be established.

H. Describe how you plan to monitor how successfully your efforts on this Action Project are progressing:

1. Post-test surveys will be used to determine level of involvement. This information will be distributed to all employee groups at the college.
2. Class assessment will be another method used to monitor the success of the project. All full-time faculty will be asked to do an assessment of one learning college principle in at least

one class. Adjunct faculty will be encouraged to do this, but not required. The assessment tool will be each faculty member's choice. After the assessment, the faculty member will be asked to complete a reflection document which will be collected by chairs and deans and discussed for ongoing improvements.

I. Describe the overall "outcome" measures or indicators that will tell you whether this Action Project has been a success or failure in achieving its goals:

1. The language of learning will be reflected in key institutional documents (program descriptions, policy statements, and mission/vision statements).
2. Innovative initiatives that reflect Learning College Principles.
3. Teaching values that are focused on Learning (i.e. high standards, and student/faculty retention).

J. Other information (e.g., publicity, sponsor or champion, etc.):

The Community College of Denver will be the host institution for the League for Innovations 2008. This will provide opportunities for all faculty, staff and administrators to participate in workshops/round table discussions that will also include information on the Learning College. The Learning College concept will be embedded into our college culture. The Learning College concept will be articulated in college goals, curriculum, high-quality content guides—that reflect what is taught in the classroom—reflects the quality that CCD stands for. The Learning College commitment will live beyond the League for Innovations 2008 conference.

A cross-sectional taskforce of CCD employees will be identified to lead the Learning College

initiative. Teaching Learning Center sponsored workshops and seminars will be held to inform CCD employees about the Learning College initiative.

K. Project Leader and contact person:

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