Campus Collaborations that Strengthen Student Success through Experiential and Work-Based Learning

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LaGuardia Community College Provides Educational Access

- 17,000 Undergraduates
- 32,500 Continuing Education students
- Most students have family income below $25,000
- 60% of students receive financial aid
- 50% of students are foreign-born, 53% are Hispanic, and 18% are Black
Workshop Overview

- Connecting ELOs to Student Success
- Developing and Implementing a Collaborative Process
- Credit-Based ELOs
- Expanding to Collaborative Work-based Learning Opportunities
- Applying this Model to Your Campus
How Many of You Are From:

- Academic Affairs?
- Student Affairs?
- Continuing Education?
- Other?
Two Questions:

• How many of you have Experiential Learning Opportunities on your campus?

• Are ELOs housed by division/department or as part of a collaborative campus model?
Insight from Achieving The Dream

DREAM 2015 in Baltimore + Northeast Resiliency Consortium TAACCCT Round 3 Project

Program review of educational opportunities that connect learning outside the classroom
Our Review Identified Various ELO Opportunities

- Service Learning/Community Service
- Clinical Preparation/Practicum
- Campus Leadership
- Study Abroad
- Internships
- Research/Field Study
- Civic Engagement
- Performance-based Projects, Ensembles and Exhibitions
Students who Engaged in ELO Opportunities had Higher Credit Accumulation

Average Credits Earned

Fall 2013 | Spring 2014 | Fall 2014 | Spring 2015 | Fall 2015 | Spring 2016
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No Experiential/Work-Based Learning | With Experiential/Work-Based Learning
Students who Engaged in ELO Opportunities had Higher Retention Rates

Average % Students Retained from Students First Enrolled in Fall 2013

- Spring 2014: 90% (No Experiential/Work-Based Learning), 105% (With Experiential/Work-Based Learning)
- Fall 2014: 80% (No Experiential/Work-Based Learning), 90% (With Experiential/Work-Based Learning)
- Spring 2015: 70% (No Experiential/Work-Based Learning), 80% (With Experiential/Work-Based Learning)
- Fall 2015: 60% (No Experiential/Work-Based Learning), 70% (With Experiential/Work-Based Learning)
- Spring 2016: 50% (No Experiential/Work-Based Learning), 60% (With Experiential/Work-Based Learning)
Students who Engaged in ELO Opportunities had Higher Average GPAs

Average GPA of Students

- Fall 2013
- Spring 2014
- Fall 2014
- Spring 2015
- Fall 2015
- Spring 2016

Legend:
- No Experiential/Work-Based Learning
- With Experiential/Work-Based Learning
LaGuardia is a Member of the National Resiliency Consortium

- USDOL TAACCCT Round 3 Project
- NRC Consortium Members:
  - Seven Community Colleges, including Passaic Community College (Lead)
  - Achieving the Dream
  - Carnegie Foundation for the Advancement of Teaching
- Collaborative project designed to build a highly-skilled, resilient regional workforce able to transition into in-demand occupations and advance along a career pathway
Expanding Work-based Learning is a Critical NRC Strategy

- **Clinical rotations** in Prehospital Care programs of study
- **Onsite learning activities** in Sustainability/Green programs of study
Grant Sustainability Led to an Expansion of Work-based Learning

• Engaging employer partners in new work-based learning opportunities

• Embedding job readiness in course content

• Examples: Onsite Electronic Health Record software training (Medical Billing); Internships (Certified Clinical Medical Assistant)
Connecting ELO Opportunities to the Academic Path

- Connect students to career pathways
- Experiential learning beyond internships and connected to the classroom
- Leverage work-based learning opportunities in non-credit programs
- Institutional buy-in
Designing a Collaborative Model

- Aligned ELOs with academic programs and majors
- Identified need for ELO coordination and cross-campus collaboration
- Partnered with Division of Adult and Continuing Education on workplace learning
ELO Coordination

- Hired ELO manager
- Formed a cross-divisional committee
- Charged the committee with developing:
  - A mission statement and purpose
  - A web presence for students
  - An assessment mechanism
ELO Mission

At LaGuardia Community College, we believe that experiential learning should harness both the individual and collective knowledge, experience, and passion of our students, faculty, staff, and stakeholders to transform ourselves and the world.
ELO Purpose

• Connect the **classroom with co-curricular activities**
• Demonstrate student work via a **reflective piece using** ePortfolio
• Create comprehensive and inclusive opportunities for students as aligned to their **career goals**
• Supporting skill development along a **sustainable career pathway**
ELO Examples

• **Independent Internship**: Internships through the *unCubed* Ambassador program helped New Media Technology students gain experience at tech startups.

• **Research/Field Study**: Newtown Creek serves as a living laboratory that connects Environmental Science students to the real-world issue of local water quality.
ELO Examples

- **Civic Engagement**: Students engaged in *Urban Studies* courses are required to complete a fieldwork project that takes place outside the classroom.

- **Performance-based Projects, Ensembles & Exhibitions**: Theatre Program ELOs combine theatrical performance, field study, service learning and community service. *Beyond Sacred*, an interdisciplinary artistic and academic program exploring Muslim Identity, is an example.
ELO Assessment

- Structured and uniform process
- Campus-wide baseline outcomes
- Customized outcomes by division and department
- Sharing best practices among departments and divisions
ELO Collaboration Supports and Build on Our One College Mission

- Non-credit to credit pipeline
- Post-graduate certificate programs
- Advisement and Prior Learning Assessment
Collaborative Initiatives: Design Competition

• Partnership between ACE and NYC Dept. of Design and Construction around a workforce development training

• On-campus NYDesigns fabrication lab and incubator

• Leveraged connection to support a design competition for Industrial Design degree students
Collaborative Initiatives: Women in Transportation

- LaGuardia’s Small Business Transportation Resource Center (SBTRC) is funded through the US. Dept. of Transportation (USDOT)
- USDOT supports STEM Internships for Women in Transportation
- SBTRC worked with the Environmental Sciences degree program to connect two students to internships at USDOT-connected firms and to secure stipends for the internship
Challenges

• Building relationships
• Building consensus
• Building capacity
• Building new partnerships
• Including ELO opportunities in program periodic reviews
Think-Pair-Share

Option 1: Limited to No Current ELO Opportunities

• At your campus, how would you begin the conversation of developing or enhancing ELO opportunities?

• What department or divisions would you approach?
Think-Pair-Share
Option 2: ELO Opportunities on Campus

• How would you expand or strengthen ELO opportunities offered?
• How can you deepen collaboration on your campus to support these opportunities?
Questions?

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Thank you