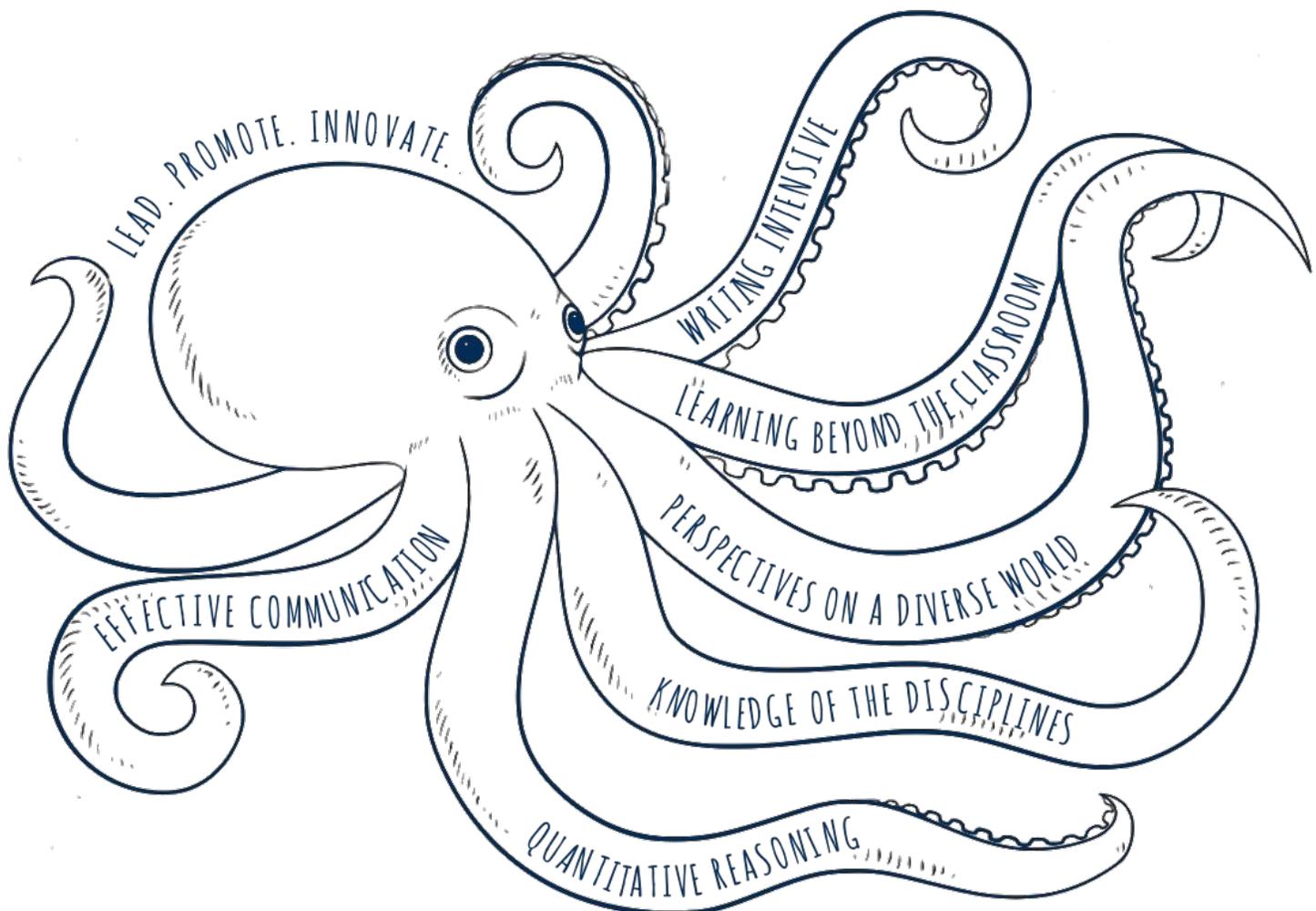


November 1, 2017

engage

Making General Education Visible



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Welcome to EMU engaGE, the General Education Program's annual conference. It is my hope that you will find many useful and interesting ideas at this year's conference, as well as plenty of helpful information about our liberal arts program and its future directions.

In light of our 2015 program review, General Education has been given the task of revitalizing the program along a number of dimensions.

First, I am interested in taking back our leadership position in general education. In order to do this, the program has taken aim at linking to conversations about general education on the national stage, especially to the Association of American Colleges and Universities' Liberal Education and Americas Promise (LEAP) framework and initiatives. Additionally, the program has invested in a number of Faculty Fellows, who now direct disciplinary research at EMU's General Education courses or overall structure.

Second, it is my aim to innovate across the current program. We have begun a number of data collection and idea generation projects aimed at renovating our student learning outcomes (SLOs). This year, the program renovated its Effective Communication – Writing outcomes. Additionally, major assessment initiatives have begun in the areas of Writing Intensive and US Diversity. These assessment initiatives are part of our newly minted SLO revision process. As we move to alignment with LEAP, it is my hope to use this framework to increase the integration of the General Education Program with other programs across campus, and improve the coherence of student's experiences within the program.

Third, the program has begun several initiatives aimed at promoting the program or components of the program. Assessment has come to the foreground in general education, as a place for scholarship and continuous improvement. Our assessment committee has been diligently gathering data and developing smooth and sustainable processes for ensuring first rate student learning in all of our courses. It is my hope you will get a healthy dose of this important work a today's conference. The program has also put in place a new professional development initiative, 50 Bucks and Lunch, aimed at learning activity design for General Education courses. It is my aim to further improve transparency and team building by way of this conference. Of course, there is more to come, but I hope you enjoy this leading event in the renovation and revitalization of our program.

Today's conference is organized with these ideas in mind. Our morning sessions aim to offer insight into our 'Lead, Innovate, and Promote' strategy, connecting work central to general education to your own educational environment. Later in the morning, we would like to take a few minutes to tell you about where the program has been and where we are hoping to see it grow in the future.

In the middle of the day, our students will present posters highlighting their work in and connections to the program. Additionally, General Education researchers and innovators will tell you about their recent work with the program. This should provide a number of venues to see how you might connect with General Education here at EMU. We will also engage in a broad discussion of student learning surrounding the ideas of diversity and inclusion. Finally, we will end our day with a number of focused discussions regarding the projects we plan to undertake over the next few years, including revisiting questions about information literacy and beginning a conversation about student learning outcomes in our US Diversity category.

I hope you will find today's conversations as thrilling as I do. I would also like to take this moment to extend a standing invitation for your thoughts and participation in our renovation and revitalization process. As a program we welcome and encourage you to share your experience, expertise, and time with us, as this ultimately leads the program to be stronger.

Again, welcome, and thank you for taking the time to engaGE with us today. I sincerely hope that you have fun, and I look forward to hearing from you in the near future and years to come with your thoughts and ideas that will better student learning at EMU and beyond!

Kindest Regards,

W. John Koolage

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engaGE

Making General Education Visible

Wednesday, November 1st, 2017

Workshop
9:00 am – 10:30 am
Room 301

*LEAP and High Impact
Practices*

Session designed by:
Brendan Fay and Danielle
Clevenger

This workshop introduces LEAP, a national initiative surrounding liberal education spearheaded by the American Association of Colleges and Universities. Michigan has officially become a LEAP state, and is beginning to officially introduce and implement its own LEAP plans. Participants will learn about one of LEAP and its key components, particularly High Impact Practices, which are especially effective learning activities. The workshop will explore what High Impact Practices are already doing on campus, as well as provide tools and direction for further involvement with EMU LEAP initiatives and High Impact Practices.

Workshop
9:00 am – 10:30 am
Room 310A

Learning to Learn

Session designed by:
Christine Deacons

There is a misconception in higher education that Learning Centers exist to reinforce content taught in class that the student does not fully understand. Often, one-on-one tutoring can help the student get through a particular assignment or test. However, many students being served via tutoring and supplemental instruction MUST receive this additional support outside of the classroom on an ongoing basis in order to pass the class. Evidence has emerged indicating that when students are taught "how to learn" a particular subject, they go on to be much more successful in all of their classes. This session will discuss strategies that "teach students to learn", including information on how to teach different subjects and how to teach students to reflect on their learning so that they can identify ways to improve. Examples of tools used with students will be provided.

Workshop
9:00 am – 10:30 am
Room 320

*Assessing Student
Learning from a General
Education Perspective*

Session designed by:
Doug Baker

General Education provides a frame for a diverse number of assessment processes at EMU. In this workshop and dialogue, participants will learn about the power of our Learning Management System, Canvas, for the purpose of assessing student learning. Presenters will also share how Canvas and a number of other assessment tools were used in assessing General Education's Writing Intensive courses, and how one department has made use of assessment for the purpose of continuous improvement. There will be opportunities to engage the speakers to gain insight into strategies and tools for assessment.

Plenary
10:30am-11:30am
Room 310A

*General Education at
EMU: Past, Present, and
Future*

Speakers: Marty
Schictman, Michael Tew,
John Koolage

General education curriculum design is generally a faculty lead process. At this plenary, panelists will share the initial conception and design of our current general education program, its role and importance in today's EMU degree programs, and a vision for its short term future. The panel will include a short, moderated discussion, and open Q&A. Visitors to this session should expect to leave with a richer understanding of the role of general education and liberal education as it is delivered at EMU.

Poster Session/Lunch
11:30am-1:00pm
Room 310B

engaGEd Students

During lunch you will have the opportunity to interact with EMU students as they display their work from various General Education classes. You will also hear about how the General Education Program has influenced their studies, career trajectories, and personal lives

Research Presentation
1:00pm-2:00pm
Room 301

*Assessing Student
Learning through Student
Employment as a High
Impact Practice*

Presenter: Kate Curley

Student employment is an often under-utilized opportunity for student learning. Despite many offices across campus employing students, assessment of student learning in the various roles is not always useful to students, the supervisors, nor the institution. This session will spotlight Campus Life's student employee assessment program through its development and implementation throughout much of Student Affairs at EMU. Using LEAP's Value Rubrics, the presenter has developed a process of assessing student employees in a way that promotes self-reflection in students, identifies action plans for further improvement for supervisors, and allows institutions to assess longitudinal development of student learning. The presentation will be a mix of information sharing, tangible activities, and tools to bring back to one's department, and workshop time to help move one in the direction of developing one's own process to best fit their departmental needs.

Research Presentation
1:00pm-2:00pm
Room 320

*Turning Your Teaching
into Research*

Presenter: Katherine
Ryker

Ever wondered why one teaching technique works better than another – or indeed if one is effective at all? Interested in student motivation toward your discipline? During this presentation, we'll dive into the Scholarship of Teaching and Learning (SoTL) and discuss practical applications stemming from your classrooms. SoTL is characterized as a thoughtful approach to teaching and learning, asking the questions "Does this work, and how do I know?" and communicating the results of this inquiry to our peers. We will showcase examples of SoTL projects that have stemmed from General Education courses at Eastern. Participants will identify areas in need of study in their courses, outline a plan of action for how to begin these investigations, and receive a list of journals interested in publishing SoTL work.

Research Presentation
1:00pm-2:00pm
Room 310A

*Topics in the Scholarship
of Assessment*

Presenter: EMU Faculty

Assessment at EMU is an integral part of continuous improvement of programs, courses, and learning activities. It is also a point of research and disciplinary focus. In this session, a number of researchers and teachers will share their work in assessment and provide personal experience with designing assessment tools and activities, using assessment to improve student learning, and assessing assessment with a disciplinary lens. The focus will be on sharing of individual stories within these domains.

Research Presentation
1:00pm-2:00pm
Room 330

*The Sophia Project:
Including Students in the
Conversation*

Presenter: Danielle
Clevenger

In 2016 the General Education Program endorsed a student lead and designed experimental, and on-going, co-curricular project, The Sophia Project (TSP). The project uses basic philosophical and pedagogical principles to deliver the essential ideas of High Impact Practices (HIP) into students' hands, with the goal of increasing student agency and learning across a number of domains. The first iteration of the project had numerous successes: fruitful student research projects, an increase in student mentors, and a joint faculty and student presentation at a regional teaching conference. This presentation will focus on sharing how TSP engages the LEAP framework, particularly HIPs, on three distinct levels. First, TSP is itself HIP, meeting many of the criterion that make HIPs especially effective learning practices. Second, TSP teaches students about HIPs and liberal education more generally. While faculty and staff are familiar with concepts found in the teaching and learning scholarship, students are rarely told why they are engaged in the ways that they are. This means that students generally don't understand why classes, programs, and institutions structure and function in particular ways. Third, TSP prepares and encourages students to actively seek out other HIPs to further support their educational and personal goals.

Panel Discussion
2:00pm-3:30pm
Room 310A

Contact Zone--Diversity

Facilitated By: Keon
Pettway

The guiding principle of the General Education Program at EMU is to provide students with a comprehensive educational experience and prepares them for a participation in a global world. One of the major areas of student learning within this program is Perspectives on a Diverse World, which includes US Diversity. General education is also a point of contact for numerous modes of facilitating student learning. With an increasing need to understand the nature of diversity, inclusion, and the breadth of educational spaces, general education can serve as a critical focal point for important, relevant, and difficult conversations.

The purpose of this showcase, panel, and dialogue, is to serve as a contact zone for people interested in sharing, learning, and discussing the prospects and challenges of educational spaces focused on global awareness and US diversity and inclusion. Visitors to this session should expect to share, learn, and dialog about student learning related to diversity and inclusion, as well as its importance in today's world.

Discussion
3:30pm-4:30pm
Room 320

*Mapping Information
Literacy and General
Education: Where We Are
and Where We Could Go*

Facilitator: Sarah Fabian

The ability to evaluate and use information to solve problems and answer questions is critical in today's society. In 2015, the General Education Review Committee (GERC) published an analysis of the General Education Program that identified a major weakness of the program as the lack of an innovative or comprehensive “way to address Digital Literacy, Information Literacy and Technology, and especially its role and impact on citizenship and personal relationships” (3). Currently, there are a handful of Information Literacy (IL) related outcomes embedded within some of the areas of EMU’s General Education program, but there is not a comprehensive or stand-alone requirement related to IL. Participants will learn how IL-related outcomes are mapped within our current General Education Program, what this type of requirement looks like at other institutions, and what sorts of efforts would potentially need to take place in order for us to embed such a requirement in the Gen Ed Program at EMU. Participants will also identify approaches to assessing IL outcomes in the current Gen Ed Program in order to determine students’ understanding of these essential concepts. Participants are encouraged to bring a laptop or smartphone for a hands-on activity.

Discussion
3:30pm-4:30pm
Room 310A

*GEUS and SLO
Renovation*

Facilitator: Kate Curley,
Keon Pettway, John
Koolage

One critically important task for the next couple of years is to renovate our US Diversity learning outcomes. Following our contact zone in the previous session, this dialogue will focus our energy specifically at a conversation about the student learning outcomes in this subcategory of the General Education Program. It is our hope that session participants will help us identify critical issues in these outcomes, as well as troubling omissions and potential inclusions. Our goal is to begin a lengthy, and vitally important, discussion of pathways to a greater focus on citizenship and participation in a diverse world by way of robust and comprehensive student learning outcomes in this subcategory of the General Education Program.

Discussion
3:30pm-4:30pm
Room 301

*Bridging Our Divides:
What have we found and
where do we go from
here?*

Facilitator: Amy Johnson,
Darlene Leifson

The primary goal of EMU’s Bridging Our Divides series of dialogues is to purposefully and inclusively connect students, student affairs staff, administrators, and faculty in order to promote a culture of honest, ongoing communication and collaboration within our campus community. This session will provide an overview of the procedures, findings, and initial impacts of the 2016-2017 series of dialogues. Participants and the session facilitators will then explore potential themes, structures, and outcomes for future iterations of these dialogues that address important issues to our campus community.