

Reading Star



What is a Learning Community?



Learning communities are classes that are linked during an academic term and enroll a common body of students. This is a purposeful restructuring of curriculum so that students find greater coherence in what they are learning and greater interaction with

faculty and peers. The intended results of this interdisciplinary approach to higher education are to restructure the students' time and learning experiences to build community. Learning communities are taught by instructors who are united in their commitment to student learning. They share a vision, work and

What Are the Benefits of Learning Communities?

- More contact with faculty.
- Enhanced understanding of both subjects due to coordination of assignments.
- Awareness of the connections/relationships between math and reading.
- Recognition and understanding of certain global issues and how these issues affect everyday life.

learn collaboratively, visit each other's classrooms, and participate in co-decision making.

Math and Reading: Creating Synergy

The Learning Community, called *Math and Reading: Creating Synergy*, was developed to create synergy among math, reading, writing, service-learning, and critical thinking. The curriculum is comprised of interdisciplinary units that use current newspaper articles as the foundation on which real-world, level-specific math problems and reading comprehension questions are developed. Timely news readings that address a host of social issues give students exposure to real world concerns and real world applications of math. The associated problem sets and questions allow students to apply the math and reading skills learned in class. Moreover, the units allow students to see the interplay among these disciplines. The premise is that when students see a correlation between what they are learning in class and the real world, they see a purpose for their learning. This, in turn, results in an

increase in success and retention. Additionally, the topics on which the units are based were chosen to foster a sense of civic and even, global responsibility. These interdisciplinary units also include math journal topics, math vocabulary assignments, and service-learning activities that enhance students' proficiency.



Focus:

There are 6 areas of focus for the interdisciplinary units with 12 modules total. The focus areas are: budgeting and debt, the environment, education, minority issues, civic responsibility, and health.