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EDUCAUSE Preconference, Tuesday, October 28, 2008
“A Planning Process for Successful Learning / Information Commons”

Involving the Campus Community

Crit Stuart, Part 1

Involving the campus community in a learning commons

Who are the potential partners?

Why include them?

How to initiate the engagements?

Who are the potential partners?

Campus administrators

Multimedia

Writing clinic

Assessment specialists

Career counseling

Student organizations

Food services

CETL / CITL

Security

Counseling Center

Students & Faculty serving on Advisory Councils

Alumni

Honors classes

Academic depts

Advisement

Undergraduates

Student Government

Tutoring

Graduate students

Data / GIS centers

OIT

Why include these partners?

- Focused on student learning outcomes & success
- Open to extending services away from 'home base'
- Appreciate the synergy of key services in one place
- Eager to improve impact & outreach
- Looking for successful ventures
- Contribute resources to benefit the whole commons
- Money, resources & expertise w/o requiring a presence in the learning commons (e.g. Provost, VP Acad Affairs)

How to initiate partner engagements?

- Identify partners re: mission to foster student success
- Through meetings & informal conversation, reveal your ambition, and determine their interest & readiness
- Work around non-takers if partnership is desirable
- Understand their service models & deliverables; share data related to impact & efficacy
- Identify 'champions' with the authority to make the partnership happen

How to initiate partner engagements?

- Create understanding of the opportunity while building trust
- Determine readiness; consider track record
- Identify assurances to bring partner on board
- Is the partnership permanent or experimental
- What risks come with the relationship

How to initiate partner engagements?

- Create document of shared vision, opportunity, and student-centered outcomes
- When project launches, expose each partner to the others: nature of work, ambitions, concerns, staff & resource assets
- During planning, encourage blue-sky ambitions, enriched service models, and build on complementarities
- Consider MOUs or other forms of contract