

Benchmarking Best Practices in Distance Learning

Appalachian State University--Christy
Asheville-Buncombe Technical Community College—Carolyn
Blue Ridge Community College--Meg
California Coast University--Tim
Capella University--Kurt
Central Piedmont CC--Delos
Coast Learning Systems (Coastline Community College)--Linda
DeVry University--Andrea
East Carolina University--Kurt
 ✓ Ed 2 Go --Hank
Fayetteville State University--Delos
Fayetteville Technical Community College--Dennis
Georgia's online CC consortium—Hank
Haywood Community College--Carolyn
Kaplan University
Keiser College (eCampus)
NC Department of Public Instruction--Barb

Nova Southeastern University--Kirk
Regis University
 ✓ The Open University (UK)--Eddie
Smarthinking--**Toni**
The Pennsylvania State University (World Campus)--Marti
Thomas Edison State University
Thomson Education Direct--Hank
Tri-County Community College—Meg
UNC-TV Educational Services--Barb
United States Navy (Human Performance Center)—David
University of Maryland University College--Duane
University of North Carolina at Charlotte--Linda
University of Phoenix--Toni
 ✓ Wayne County Community College (MI)--Tim
 ✓ Western Carolina University—Linda
Other--Kirk

Learning College Project and Principles

League for Innovation in the Community College www.league.org

“The League is an international organization dedicated to catalyzing the community college movement. We host conferences and institutes, develop Web resources, conduct research, produce publications, provide services, and lead projects and initiatives with our member colleges, corporate partners, and other agencies in our continuing efforts to make a positive difference for students and communities” (About the League, www.league.org).

The League’s eight major initiatives include

Technology	Student Success	Research and Practice
Leadership	Workforce Development	Resource Development
Learning	Diversity and Equity	

Vanguard Learning College Project

”The purpose of the Learning College Project is to assist community colleges in the United States and Canada to become more learning centered by creating a network of 12 Vanguard Colleges strongly committed to the Learning College concept, whose efforts can serve as a basis for model programs and best practices” (The Learning College Project, www.league.org).

Project Objectives

- Organizational Culture. Each of the 12 colleges will cultivate an organizational culture where policies, programs, practices, and personnel support learning as the major priority.
- Staff Recruitment & Development. Each of the 12 colleges will create or expand (a) recruitment and hiring programs to ensure that new staff and faculty are learning centered and (b) professional development programs that prepare all staff and faculty to become more effective facilitators of learning.
- Technology. Each of the 12 colleges will use information technology primarily to

improve and expand student learning.

- Learning Outcomes. Each of the 12 colleges will agree on competencies for a core program of the college's choice, on strategies to improve learning outcomes, on assessment processes to measure the acquisition of the learning outcomes, and on means for documenting achievement of outcomes.
- Underprepared Students. Each of the 12 colleges will create or expand learning-centered programs and strategies to ensure the success of underprepared students.

Vanguard Learning Colleges

Cascadia Community College (Washington)
Community College of Baltimore County (Maryland)
Community College of Denver (Colorado)
Humber College (Ontario, Canada)
Kirkwood Community College (Iowa)
Lane Community College (Oregon)
Madison Area Technical College (Wisconsin)
Palomar College (California)
Moraine Valley Community College (Illinois)
Richland College (Texas)
Sinclair Community College (Ohio)
Valencia Community College (Florida)

Champion Colleges

62 community colleges committed to the learning college principles, including Central Piedmont, Fayetteville Tech, and Sandhills.

Critical Issues Identified by the Vanguard Learning Colleges (as of 2002)

Learning Outcomes

Defining and teaching learning outcomes
Assessing and documenting learning outcomes

Technology

Using technology to improve and expand learning for students
Using technology to enhance learning for faculty and staff and to improve college operations

Staff recruitment and development

Recruiting and selecting a learning-centered faculty and staff
Developing, evaluating, and rewarding a learning-centered faculty and staff

Student engagement

Orienting and engaging students in learning-centered education
Creating learning-centered programs for underprepared students

Organizational culture

Building a framework for a learning-centered organizational culture
Placing learning first: Organizational and cultural change

Next meeting: Friday, April 8, noon, Balsam 253A

“Homework”: 1. Continue best practices research

2. Join discussion on the QEP Bd site –

The Vanguard Learning Colleges: ideas and innovations