

Making Connections

**A CUNY General Education Conference on Integrative Learning
May 6, 2005, LaGuardia Community College, CUNY**

Proposal Deadline: March 25

Integrative Learning

What do we want students to know when they graduate from college?

How do students connect their learning across courses and over time?

When do students attach discrete facts to concepts, the mark of sophisticated thinkers?

How do we help students develop the enduring habits of mind that facilitate life-long learning?

The **Making Connections** Conference invites CUNY faculty to join the national conversation about Integrative Learning – a movement to help students make connections across courses, disciplines, and semesters, using approaches such as first year programs, learning communities, interdisciplinary teaching and capstone courses. Linked to a broad CUNY effort to strengthen undergraduate education, Making Connections will feature presentations and workshops that illustrate the ways integrative learning is emerging on campuses across CUNY.

We encourage you to submit a proposal for a session that illuminates the work taking place on your campus in one of these (or related) integrative learning areas:

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| <ul style="list-style-type: none">• First Year Experience Programs• Interdisciplinary Learning Communities• Writing in the Disciplines• Community-Based Learning | <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Electronic Student Portfolios• Holistic Assessment• Service Learning• Capstone Seminars |
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Proposals are due March 25. Send the information requested at the end of this Call to mpiso@lagcc.cuny.edu. For more information: <http://www.lagcc.cuny.edu/ctl/conference05> .

Overview: The May 6 conference offers opportunities to explore the emerging potential of integrative learning at CUNY and colleges nationwide, and to share insight into related issues of pedagogy and practice. Dr. Lee Knefelkamp, a noted scholar of student intellectual and ethical development and a Senior Fellow at the AAC&U, will give the conference keynote. Co-author of the AAC&U's *Greater Expectations: A New Vision for Learning as a Nation Goes to College*, Knefelkamp is widely known for her work around issues of diversity, found in *The Drama of Diversity and Democracy* and *American Pluralism and the College Curriculum*.

Conference breakout sessions will offer workshops and presentations from all CUNY campuses, as well as LaGuardia. Sessions should focus on a pedagogical issue or aspect of Integrative Learning, and/or specific programs that advance Integrative Learning experiences at your campus. Breakout sessions are intended to be interactive and 75 minutes in length, including time for discussion.

What is Integrative Learning? Integrative Learning speaks to the core of the undergraduate experience. The Association of American Colleges & Universities (AAC&U) and the Carnegie Foundation for the Advancement of Teaching have foregrounded the importance of integrative learning with a project involving colleges nationwide, including LaGuardia, small liberal arts colleges such as Carleton College, and large research institutions such as

Michigan State University. AAC&U and the Foundation have defined Integrative Learning in ways that underscore its central role in strengthening General Education:

Fostering students' ability to integrate learning across courses, over time, and between campus and community life is one of the most important goals and challenges of higher education. The undergraduate experience can be a fragmented landscape of general education courses, preparation for the major, co-curricular activities, and "the real world" beyond the campus. But an emphasis on integrative learning can help undergraduates put the pieces together and develop habits of mind that prepare them to make informed judgments in the conduct of personal, professional, and civic life.

Many colleges and universities are creating opportunities for more integrative, connected learning through first year seminars, learning communities, interdisciplinary studies programs, capstone experiences, individual portfolios, advising, student self-assessment, and other initiatives. Often, however, such innovations involve only small numbers of students or exist in isolation, disconnected from other part of the curriculum and other reform efforts. But a variety of opportunities to develop the capacity for integrative learning should be available to all students throughout their college years, and should be a cornerstone of a twenty-first century education.

Faculty-led efforts to advance more integrative approaches to learning are already underway on many CUNY campuses. The conference will showcase these efforts, including LaGuardia's nationally acclaimed electronic student portfolio project. We encourage you to share what you're doing and join the conversation.

Proposals

To propose a session, please submit a précis that provides the following information, and email it to **Making Connections** Coordinator Michele Piso at mpiso@lagcc.cuny.edu by March 25, 2005.

Workshop Title:

Presenter(s):

College, Department/Division:

Phone, Email for contact person :

Equipment needs (Laptop/projector, TV/VCR, etc.):

Narrative (no more than 250 words):

Brief description of the college initiative that this workshop highlights:

Explanation of how your topic/program addresses Integrative Learning:

The format of your workshop: