

Project Name: Expansion of Services in the Chemistry Learning Center (CLC) and Physics Learning Center (PLC)

MIU Round: Round 1

Sponsor(s): College of Letters and Science

Coordinator(s): Cathy Middlecamp (Chemistry) and Susan Nossal (Physics)

Partner(s): Department of Chemistry, Department of Physics

Report Date: Year 1, August 2010

Project Specific Goal and Measures

Project Impact Measure(s) Chemistry: Increase CLC staff support to cover all sections of Chemistry 103, 104 and 108. This will result in an increase in the number of students served.

Physics: Increase PLC staff support to Physics 103-104 and continue providing support to students in Physics 207-208. Support to students in 207 and 208 would have been cut without MIU funding.

Project Impact Data Source(s) Number of covered sections in Chemistry will be provided by Cathy Middlecamp.

Number of students and courses served in AY 2009-10 and beyond will be provided by Susan Nossal.

Note: The operational definition of a "covered section" is that a staff member attends the course lecture, provides learning center support services to students identified as needing them (approx. 10% of students in course), and coordinates with the course instructor regarding course materials.

Baseline Measure(s) CLC: Number of covered sections in AY 2008-09 (9 of 15 sections, 252 students).

PLC: Number of students served in AY 2008-09 (4 courses, 268 students).

General MIU Goals and Measures (applicable to project)

F Decreased achievement gaps One goal of this project is to reduce the gap in the rates of adverse outcomes (D, F, or drop) between targeted minority students and non-targeted students.

Continue identifying peer tutors from diverse backgrounds.

G Attention to diversity in new hires	<p>The hiring of a new teaching assistant in Physics was partially made on the basis of the staff member's experience working with diverse students in the PEOPLE program and on her coursework in multicultural education.</p> <p>Chemistry states on all PVLs that staff are expected to participate in continued professional development and increase their competency in teaching diverse groups of students.</p>
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Progress Reports

Year 1	<p>Physics: Increase staff member's appointment from 50% to 100%. Hired a 33% teaching assistant. With increased staffing the PLC was able to provide support for Physics 207 and 208 while maintaining support for Physics 103 and 104. The increased staffing allowed PLC staff to be proactive in reaching out to students experiencing difficulties in supported courses.</p> <p>Chemistry: The focus in Spring 2010 was on recruiting, hiring, and training new staff members. At the end of the spring semester, CLC staff increased by .8 FTE (approximately 40% of the approved total increase).</p>
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