Co-Curricular Connections

Faculty and Student Affairs Educators Partnering to Enhance Student Learning

The Division of Student Services is committed to creating co-curricular connections that enhance classroom learning with out-of-class learning opportunities. We have developed these programs and initiatives around a robust set of LEAP learning outcomes as articulated by the American Association of Colleges and Universities (AAC&U). Among them:

- Foundations and Skills for Lifelong Learning
- Civic Responsibility
- Integrative Learning
- Critical Thinking
- Intercultural Knowledge and Competence
- Ethical Reasoning

http://www.aacu.org/leap/vision.cfm

What does a co-curricular connection look like?

The integration of academic and student affairs can take many forms, from individual efforts to university-wide initiatives. Examples include:

- Utilizing programming as a tool for classroom learning (e.g. organizing a speaker around specific course content, co-creating experiential learning that highlights classroom themes, etc.).
- Partnering to increase student engagement through support programs, internships, service-learning, tutoring, student organization membership, Laker leadership programs, Laker for a Lifetime efforts, etc.
- Mentoring students through tailored programs that serve under-represented students (e.g. Laker Connections Programs; mentor programs for Students of Color that include Brothers, Hermanos, Niara).
- Participating in bridge programs that introduce new students to college life or develop specific skills
- Involvement in living-learning communities where students choose to live and learn together in order to expand their knowledge through shared learning experiences. Each community builds upon a specific theme, major or area of interest and faculty and student affairs educators work to create a rich learning environment.

Collaborations between academic and student affairs highlight the importance of learning both inside and outside the classroom and GVSU students benefit from this dynamic partnership!