

# Learning Communities and the First-Year Experience

## Call for instructors—Fall 2012

In fall 2012, Missouri State is offering a limited number of Curricular Learning Communities. The most common learning community configuration includes a combination of the following linked classes: GEP 101, ENG 110, and/or COM 115. Other course options are welcome, assuming the course combinations are appropriate for first-year students. Every learning community should have an integrated theme.

### What is a Learning Community?

“Any one of a variety of curricular structures that link together several existing courses—or actually restructure the material entirely—so that students have opportunities for deeper understanding and integration of the material they are learning and more interaction with one another and their teachers as fellow participants in the language enterprise.” (Gabelnick, MacGregor, Mathews, & Smith, 1990, p.19)

### Why should students participate in a Learning Community?

Research shows that students who participate in learning communities have higher grades and are more likely to stay in college.

### Why should faculty participate in a Learning Community?

- Opportunities for interdisciplinary collaboration and pedagogical innovation
- Enhanced collegiality across disciplines
- Increased awareness of students' academic and personal needs

### Instructors who participate will:

- Receive an additional \$500 stipend\* (*stipend is contingent upon fall 2012 budget--unknown at this time*)
- Work together with other faculty in planning the curriculum to enhance student learning
- Integrate the use of a common reader based upon the Public Affairs theme
- Participate in two faculty development sessions during Spring 2012
- Present on campus, e.g., Showcase on Teaching and Learning or other campus forums to highlight accomplishments

☐ **Yes, I'm interested. What's my next step?** Simply complete the information below and send it to Mike Wood, First-Year Program, University Hall 205, or by email: [MikeWood@missouristate.edu](mailto:MikeWood@missouristate.edu) by **Friday, February 17<sup>th</sup>**.

Additional questions? Call Mike Wood at 836-8343, or browse the First-Year Programs website:

<http://www.missouristate.edu/firstyearprograms/>

Yes, I am interested in forming a Curricular Learning Community in my GEP 101 (or other gen.ed. class in the fall of 2012!)

Name\_\_\_\_\_ Department\_\_\_\_\_

Course I will teach as part of Learning Community: \_\_\_\_\_

Course(s) I would like to link with: \_\_\_\_\_

Other faculty you have already met with to discuss a LC? (If applicable):\_\_\_\_\_

