

Discovery Learning Center News - Spring 2004

From the Co-Director

Dear Colleague,

This is our inaugural newsletter, and I pulled rank (in this case age) on Jon Harbor so that I could make history. Forgive my ambition! As you will discover as you read our newsletter, the Discovery Learning Center is thriving. We are alive in the world of grant writing and building planning. Most importantly, we have colleagues like you interested in bettering learning at Purdue University and committed to exporting our pedagogical discoveries beyond our campus. I am confident that we will shape a community able to transform learning in exciting and inspiring ways. Welcome to the Discovery Learning Center - welcome to the future. *Margaret Moan Rowe, Co-Director, Discovery Learning Center*

What's Happening in the Learning Center?

Over the past six months, Discover Learning Center has focused on identifying, developing, and nurturing interdisciplinary teams and projects that integrate, synthesize, and promote discovery, learning, and engagement. Currently, the Learning Center has 167 Purdue Affiliates representing twelve schools and 45 academic departments or units; plus affiliates from other Universities, Business and Industry, Teachers, Professional Organizations, and other interested groups. The Learning Center is also working to increase visibility and to create collaborative relationships with key constituencies outside of the Purdue community through a variety of means, including meetings, presentations, and joint projects.

Since its inception, less than a year ago, the DLC has facilitated submission of 11 grants for more than \$82.6 million dollars. These proposals have brought together faculty and resources from Engineering, Science, Technology, Agriculture, Education, and Liberal Arts to address complex interdisciplinary problems and to apply that knowledge to teaching and learning. Projects focus on the entire range of educational applications, including K-12, undergraduate, graduate, adult learning, and informal learning.

Announcing the DLC Seed Grant Program

DLC is implementing a seed grant program to stimulate innovation and research in interdisciplinary teaching and learning; encourage implementation tests of new teaching and learning initiatives based on research into discovery-based learning; and develop initiatives that build on Discovery Park research programs. Seed grant funds can be used for faculty release time or summer salary, equipment, materials and supplies, graduate student support, conferences, or other costs directly related to the goals of the funded project. Projects are expected to support grant submission to an external funding agency and DLC will work with grant recipients to identify funding opportunities and prepare competitive proposals. DCL Affiliates may apply for awards up to \$20,000 by submitting a 2-5 page project description that summarizes the need, background, plan of work, deliverables, anticipated outcomes, assessment plan, and long term plan for development of external funding, along with a budget, budget justification, and transmittal check sheet to the Learning Center by 5:00 April 30, 2004. For more information, visit the DLC web portal, at: www.purdue.edu/DiscoveryPark.

You're Invited

Join us Tuesday, April 20, 2004 from 3:00-5:00 PM for the first Discovery Learning

Center Reception and Education Forum. This will be a great opportunity to learn more about the DLC and its programs, meet colleagues from across campus, and share your program, research, or activities with others. Join us in the East-West Faculty Lounge of the Purdue Memorial Union from 3:00-5:00 for some refreshments, learning, and networking. To exhibit, complete the attached form and return it by April 9, 2004 to: Willie Burgess /DLC/403 ENAD (wburgess@purdue.edu).

There's a Building in Our Future

Plans for a Discovery Learning Center Building are progressing. In September, the CPC-1 request for the DLC was approved and a fundraising strategy is currently under development. As the process continues, DLC will look to its advisory board and affiliates for input into the design.

Interns for Indiana

DLC is leading the Interns for Indiana component of Purdue's Opportunities for Indiana program. Funded by the Lilly Endowment, this project seeks innovative ways to keep Indiana's college graduates in Indiana. Purdue's Interns for Indiana (IFI) project provides subsidized interns to Indiana start up companies. DLC is currently seeking interested students to participate in this summer's pilot program. Interns receive a generous stipend and invaluable experience. To nominate a student, or for more information, contact Willie Burgess (wburgess@purdue.edu).