

Team Adult & Nontraditional Students LEAP Action Plan

LEAP Workshop Year: 2013 Action dates: Spring 2013-Spring 2014	For more information, contact: Kari Borne, x1003, bornek@uww.edu Lynn Smith, x1619, smithlm11@uww.edu
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General Goal:	
<p>The goal of this project was to research and build awareness throughout campus about the High-Impact Educational Practices (HIPs) that are most effective and accessible for nontraditional students.</p>	
Planned Actions:	
<i>Initial Ideas and Plan:</i>	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Team members researched each of the High Impact Practices offered at UW-Whitewater to help determine if such offerings allowed flexibility and fit into the lives and course plans for nontraditional students. • Nontraditional students were surveyed to assess their awareness of HIP's in general and of undergraduate research specifically. • The team partnered with Dennis Kopf, (Marketing) to facilitate further research on nontraditional student participation in HIP's and to develop a marketing plan to increase awareness and participation. 	
<i>Analysis of the Research:</i>	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • An analysis of the research revealed that nontrads are aware of HIP's and participate in the ones that allow flexibility, and fit into their busy lives and career goals. • There is a lack of awareness with nontrad participation in HIP's, however it is with faculty and student organizations. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> – Faculty may underestimate the influence they have on nontrads' participation in HIP's. The research showed that nontrads are most likely to participate when individual faculty and staff reach out and encourage their involvement. – Student organizations may not recognize that meeting/event times may prohibit nontrads and other groups from contributing to their organizations. 	
Deliverables, Completed Actions:	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Undergraduate research is a good fit for many nontrad students, however many of them don't understand how it can fit into their busy schedule. An insert was created to be placed inside the Undergraduate Research brochure, highlighting adult students' experiences with the program. The insert has testimonials of successful nontraditional student researchers addressing how they got involved in the program, how they made it work in their busy lives, and whether they would recommend it. • Sought out the help of the newly hired Director of Adult Learning to help build faculty awareness on their impact on nontraditional students' participation in HIP's. She plans to 	

incorporate this awareness into new faculty orientation and throughout the academic year at various committee meetings she serves on.

- Work has begun on developing a list of courses that integrate HIP's into their coursework. This list will be updated regularly, and shared with nontraditional students and advisors.

Notes:

Dennis Kopf is planning to publish a paper on the research conducted with UW-Whitewater adult students. Once that is available, it will be shared on the LEAP webpage.

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