

LEAP 2015

EMPOWERING STUDENTS ★ ★ ★

Learn about LEAP. Collaborate with colleagues. Create action plans. Earn a stipend for faculty, staff or student development.

Liberal Education and America's Promise (LEAP) is sweeping the nation as one of the most invigorating programs for institutional change that we've seen in higher education in decades. UW-Whitewater is on the forefront for LEAP, and now hundreds of other campuses around the country are joining in.

“...LEAP challenges the traditional practice of providing liberal education to some students and narrow training to others. LEAP engages the public with core questions about what really matters in college; connects employers and educational leaders as they make the case for the importance of liberal education in the global economy and in our diverse democracy; and helps all students achieve the essential learning outcomes. Through LEAP, AAC&U calls on the United States to ‘make excellence inclusive’ so that all students receive the best and most powerful preparation for work, life and citizenship.”

- <http://aacu.org/leap/>

QUESTIONS

Now that our campus has adopted LEAP, many are wondering: What does LEAP mean? Where did it come from? How can we really use LEAP to benefit students? What happens next?

INVITATION

You are cordially invited to join a series of hands-on workshops designed to explore the many elements of LEAP. Campus representatives will be on hand to discuss LEAP and facilitate larger conversations about what it can mean at UW-Whitewater. Help us define a LEAP vision. *All campus employees and students are eligible to apply.*

THEME FOR 2015

For 2015, the workshop theme is “Empowering Students.” Since 2010, we’ve come a long way in helping faculty and staff understand LEAP and how it can be used on our campus. What about students? How do we communicate the meaning of LEAP and the value that it adds to their college degrees? How do we increase awareness of LEAP across the student body? How can LEAP empower students?

Workshop teams will develop action plans aimed at improving student awareness of and engagement in LEAP.

TEAMS

We invite campus faculty, staff, students and administrators to form teams to explore better ways to inform and engage students in our campus LEAP initiative. Each LEAP team will develop a short-term (spring semester) and long-term (academic year 2015-16) plan for using LEAP. Each team must include at least three and no more than five people and must include at least one student and one campus employee.

If you are new to LEAP, this workshop series is a great place to learn. If you participated *once* in a previous year, you are eligible to apply for this 2015 workshop series if you lead or join a new team. If you already participated on two or more LEAP teams, please contact Greg Cook to see if there’s space available for advanced LEAP veterans.

If you are an individual looking to join a team, we can help you find teammates: please contact Greg Cook at cookg@uww.edu.

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WORKSHOP SCHEDULE

Teams accepted for participation will:

1. Meet for two days in January to explore LEAP, 8:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. both days. Your team can select either January 6-7 or January 13-14. Your whole team needs to meet together on the two days you select. Team time will be available to develop concrete action plans.
2. Submit a team action plan two weeks later, and implement the plan.
3. Meet again from 8:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. for two days in May to share progress from the spring semester, dig deeper into LEAP, exchange ideas for best practices, and revise team action plans for academic year 2015-16. Your team can select either May 18-19 or May 20-21. Your whole team needs to meet together on the two days you select. Team time will be available to revise concrete action plans.
4. Submit a revised team action plan one week later, and implement the plan.
5. Attend a share-and-review session during the spring 2016 semester (to be scheduled later).

STIPENDS

Eligible participants will receive stipends (per person) of \$200 upon completion of the January workshop and approval of the team action plan. Participants receive an additional \$600 after completion of the May workshop and approval of their revised action plan.



Funding for this program generously provided by the Office of the Provost and Vice Chancellor for Academic Affairs.

TO APPLY

Form a team with 3 to 5 members. Each team must have at least one student and at least one campus employee.

Send an email by December 3 to Greg Cook (cookg@uww.edu) with the following information (one email per team):

- A list of your team's participants, with email addresses and each person's department, unit or office.
- For each student, include the student's anticipated graduation date (e.g., May 2016). We prefer that students remain active on the team through May 2016.
- Indicate the dates in January that your team can meet (whole team together): either January 6-7 or 13-14.
- Indicate the dates in May that your team can meet (whole team together): either May 18-19 or 20-21.
- Provide a one-paragraph description of your team's main motivation and/or goal for participating in the 2015 LEAP workshop.

Seats are limited for this workshop series. Acceptance will be subject to space availability, budget and our desire to have representation from a variety of departments and units across campus. A firm commitment to the entire workshop program is necessary in order to receive stipends.

FACILITATORS

Greg Cook

Associate Vice Chancellor for Academic Affairs

Brent Bilodeau

Assistant Vice Chancellor for Student Affairs

Joan Littlefield Cook

Director of Academic Assessment

Dale Splinter

Administrative Fellow

With help from prior members of campus LEAP teams

Eighty-five LEAP teams with more than 400 members have participated so far. Now it's your turn!

Please direct questions to Greg Cook at cookg@uww.edu.