

# The Innovative Teaching & Learning Series



ATLANTIC CENTER FOR LEARNING COMMUNITIES  
2013 CURRICULUM RETREAT

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# Opening Activity



Reflect on a professional development experience (formal or informal) that has shaped your practice. What made the experience meaningful for you?

Pair up with someone new and interview them about their experience. Report out for your partner.

# What have you discovered about the nature of meaningful professional development?



- It takes you outside your silo.
- It is multi-disciplinary.
- It links theory and practice.
- It has practical application.
- It responds to authentic need and interest.
- It focuses on what you value and what you care about.
- It uses a strengths-based approach.
- It is not judgmental.
- It promotes belonging and acceptance.
- It creates space to be vulnerable and take risks.
- It promotes trust.
- It models effective practice.
- It reminds us of ourselves as learners.
- It is learner –centered.
- It enables mentoring relationships and networking among colleagues.
- It values participants' expertise and experience.
- It acknowledges the teacher as practitioner.
- It attends to implicit learning.
- It energizes.

# BHCC Student Success Agenda



**Learning  
Communities**

**Professional  
Development**



**Increase Persistence  
& Program Completion**

**Unified  
Support Services**

**Student Learning  
Outcomes Assessment**

# BHCC Learning Communities



## The Seminar

- 3-credit college level course
- Provides successful transition to college environment
- Faculty develop students' skills and strategies in the context of academic inquiry
- Common set of outcomes
- Improves student retention

## Clusters

- Two or more courses linked
- Provides integrated learning experience to common cohort
- Faculty design curriculum around a common academic theme
- Common set of outcomes
- Improves successful course completion

# Learning Community Professional Development



Building the  
Engaged Campus

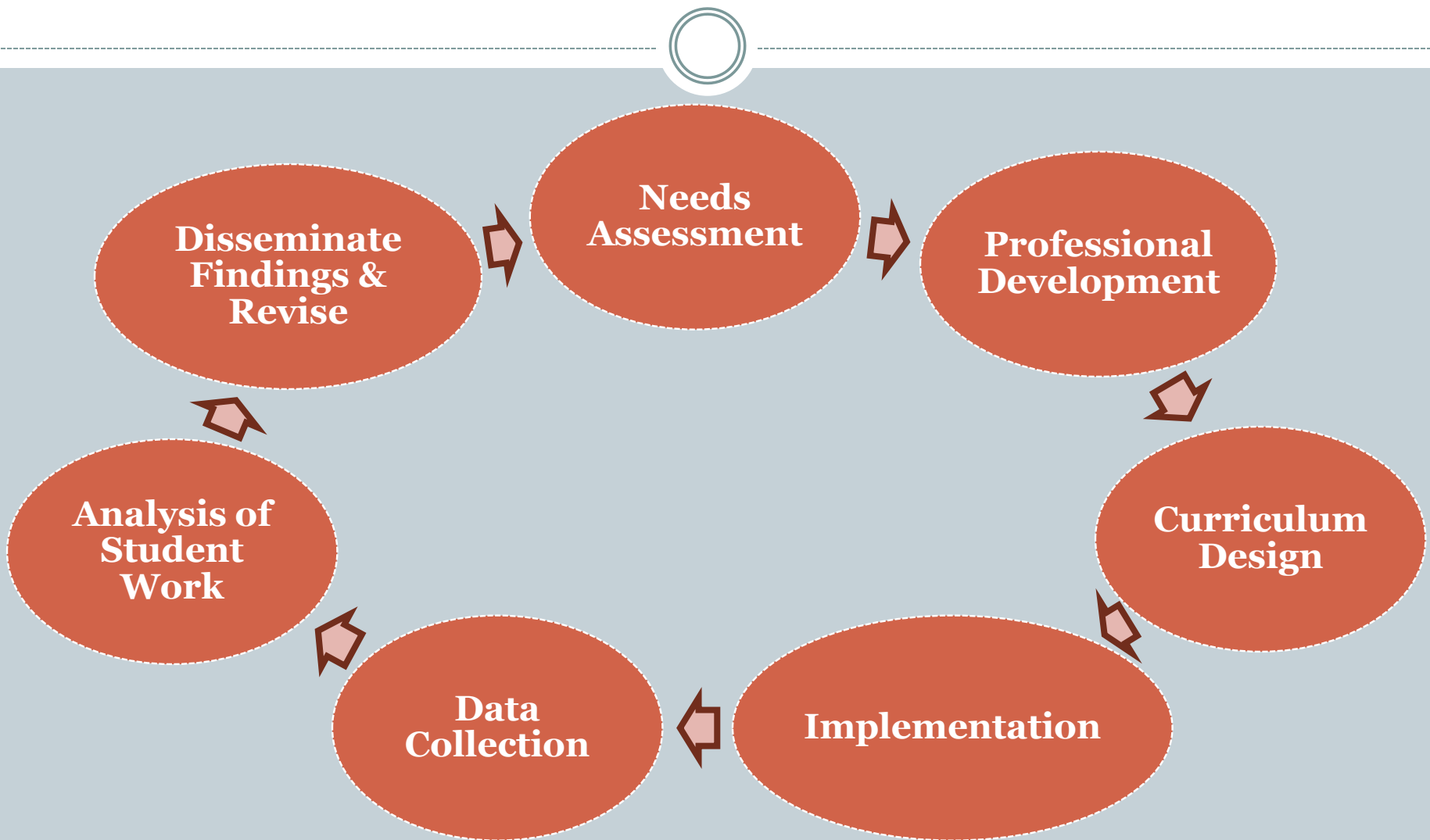


WASHINGTON CENTER

at The Evergreen State College



# Professional Development Cycle



# Innovative Teaching & Learning Series



- **Goals**
  - engage the prior understandings and experience of BHCC faculty
  - develop a deeper foundation of the study of teaching and learning
  - reinforce pedagogies and practices that are effective in Learning Community courses.
- **Objectives**
  - Increase knowledge of effective course design, assignment design and assessment.
  - Introduce and reinforce integrative teaching and learning principles.
  - Promote student centered pedagogies (i.e. culturally responsive pedagogy, experiential learning, cooperative learning, project & problem based learning)
  - Equip faculty with tools to infuse technology into classroom activities
  - Support a culture of inquiry and evidence



# Theoretical Foundation: Inquiry



“Inquiry is a study into a worthy question, issue, problem or idea. Inquiry involves serious engagement and investigation and the active creation and testing of new knowledge.”

“Inquiry is a dynamic process of being open to wonder and puzzlement based in the belief that understanding is constructed through the process of people working and conversing together collaboratively as they pose and solve the problems, make discoveries and rigorously test the discoveries that arise.”

# Why Inquiry?



- Engages faculty & staff in meaningful, purposeful, authentic work that addresses difficult problems
- Respects and cultivates the dispositions and prior knowledge that all faculty and staff bring with them to professional development
- Fosters imagination, curiosity, persistence, and the drive to better understand the teaching & learning process
- helps faculty & staff uncover difficult issues that are hidden or avoided
- makes professional development a fun, intellectually exciting activity
- Builds faculty relationships across the college as it requires faculty to be collaborative co-inquirers
- Leads to deeper understanding of the learning process

# ITL Components



- Learning Community Summit/Institute
- Nationally Recognized Speakers
- Faculty/Staff Facilitated Workshops
- Brown Bag Lunch Discussions
- Faculty Peer Exchange
- Partnerships
  - Museum of African American History
  - UMASS Asian American Studies Program
- ACE Mentor Academy

# Fall 2013 ITL Offerings



- **July**

- “Freedom Rising” Museum of African American History Faculty Institute

- **September**

- Faculty Discussion: An Introduction to BHCC Learning Communities
- Workshop: Student-centered Teaching and Learning

- **October**

- Workshop: Embedding Financial Literacy into the Curriculum
- Faculty Book Discussion: The College Fear Factor, by Rebecca Cox

- **November**

- Guest Speaker: Dr. Laura I. Rendón; Sentipensante Pedagogy: Educating for Wholeness, Social Justice and Liberation
- Faculty Discussion: Embedding Culturally Responsive Pedagogy into the Curriculum

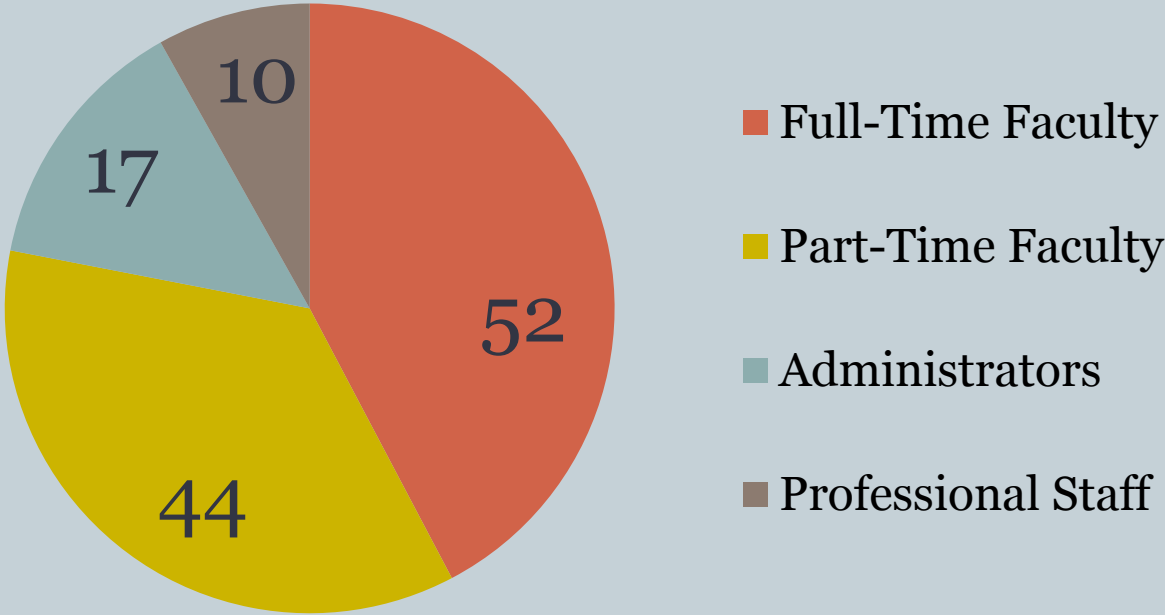
- **December**

- Faculty Discussion: Creating a Faculty Community through Mentoring and Master Learning

# Faculty & Staff Participation



**123 Faculty and Staff**



# Assessment: SLOAP



## Research Questions

- In what ways are faculty designing assignments that integrate the LEAP Essential Learning Outcome, Intercultural Knowledge and Competence, into Learning Community Curriculum?
- To what extent, **as demonstrated through their written work and multimodal projects**, are learning community students achieving Intercultural Knowledge and Competence?

# Questions?



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