

## **LEAP Solution Team Project Updates – February 2010**

### **Team #1: The Get Real Center – *Re-Entry and Adult Learners***

Audrey Green

Kiyoko Koski

Steve Erwin

Lisa Helfrich

Mitra Hoshlar

John Garcia

Kristin Houser – **is interested in working on the Arts & Business Learning Community project**

- Mentor: Debbie Rio
- Resource Person: James Glapa-Grossklag

The project assigned to this LEAP group was to develop a program for re-entry students. In their first meeting with Debbie Rio, they discovered that a re-entry program already exists, and that it is guided by a cross-campus committee. The LEAP group decided that they could be most useful to the college by working with the existing re-entry committee and trying to understand how they could augment their efforts. The result is the Get Real Center.

The intent of the Real Center is to provide re-entry students with information and support to enable them to successfully establish and achieve their academic and career preparation goals. Center staff will all be knowledgeable about college services and support programs (financial, tutoring, etc) and the Center will have a central library of materials about all these services. The goal is not to deliver all these services, such as tutoring, at the REAL Center, but rather to direct re-entry students to existing services that they could use.

Academic and career counseling services will be provided however, by staff with a special interest in and knowledge of this group of students. Orientations will be provided for new students each term, and there will be ongoing workshops addressing topics of interest to this group, such as test or math anxiety, time management, study skills, sharpening your memory, financial aid options, and writing the perfect essay.

Students will be encouraged to use the services of the Center, and to bring other fellow adult students, by activities such as brown bag lunches, quarterly social activities, and the presence of a comfortable space in which to relax and talk once the Center is in its permanent location.

The Get REAL Center will open fall 2009 in the front area of the vacated Transfer Center in the Student Center building between Health Services and the Student Computer Center. This location will serve as a temporary location until new permanent building/space is ready.

### Update: Feb 2010

As far as I know, I am the only person from our Solution Team that has continued forward (last September) by becoming a member of the Adult Re-Entry Committee, which was our project. I really have only blended into the committee and work within their designs/plans. As that committee moves forward with steps towards continuing to build this program, they may or may not use the recommendations that our Solution Team provided. **(John Garcia)**

I report to Diane Van Hook regularly regarding the Reentry Program and continue to work towards obtaining a center and staff to run it (among other things). However, I am not following up on your proposal as written. I have to tell you that John Garcia has become a regular part of our reentry committee. **(Debbie Rio)**

## **Team #2: Design a Project Based Learning Model**

Len Mohny

Seher Awan

Laura Branch

Floyd Moos – *is now working on the Arts & Business Learning Community LEAP project*

Brittany Applen

Keith Rypka

Celina Baguiao

- **Headed by Jennifer Hauss**
- Mentor: Barry Gribbons
- Resource Person: Patty Robinson

The Santa Clarita Valley is in need of a Project-Based Learning Program. This Program will be hosted by the College of the Canyons and will provide the Santa Clarita Valley business community and on-campus departments with no-cost, high-quality student assistance. Students will receive practical, real-life experience through Project-Based Learning while employers will be provided with various services free of charge.

Long term and student centered, project learning, also known as project-based learning, is a rigorous hands-on approach to learning core subject matter and basic skills with meaningful activities that examine complex, real-world issues. Project learning helps students develop and retain useful, working knowledge of subjects that are often taught in isolation and abstraction. Adopting a project-learning approach can invigorate the learning environment, energize the curriculum with real-world relevance, and spark students' desire to explore, investigate, and understand their world.

The Project-Based Learning Program will be housed on campus and include students, faculty and businesses within the community.

### Update: Feb 2010

This team is now headed by Jennifer Hauss with the help of Len Mohney, Brittany Appen, Michael Joslin, and Michael Wilding. We received a \$6,000 grant in early January, and now we are in the process of getting a contract through risk management. We have approached a few small business owners in the valley, and have met with Dorothy Minarsch's advisory committee for advice and networking. Things are looking pretty good but we are in a little bit of a waiting game until we hear back from risk management. Brittany is also working on a proposal for a fall FLEX activity.

### **Team #3: B.I.T. – Behavioral Intervention Team**

Bev Kemmerling  
Peg Hamilton  
Jasmine Foster  
Garrett Tujague  
Tammy Castor  
Robynn Fridlund  
Michael Joslin

- Mentor: Michael Wilding
- B.I.T. - Behavioral Intervention Team - will coordinate training and resources for faculty and staff to proactively address student behavioral issues. B.I.T. will provide a structured, positive method for addressing student behaviors that negatively impact the student or the college community. They will manage each case individually and address academic or safety issues. In addition, they will initiate appropriate intervention and follow up and provide safety training and educational support services for staff.

The initial team members may expand to include representatives from other departments. As this program becomes more established the team could recommend implementation of student awareness training as part of admissions process or institute other methods of student awareness training.

**Update: Feb 2010** -- We are researching what services Los Angeles County Mental Health Department offers to COC students in the Santa Clarita Valley at various agencies, and whether the 2005 Mental Health Service Act (MHSA) might be an external source of funding to increase preventive and educational mental health services for COC students. We regularly consult with faculty and staff about their concerns with regard to students' behaviors that may indicate needs that can be addressed by our own campus resources, or by referral to community resources. We maintain confidentiality and respect for student/faculty and staff privacy in these endeavors. We met with PIO and switchboard staff to establish emergency response procedures when an employee feels threatened by an interaction with a student ("Please cancel my appointment with Mr. Armstrong" or other departmental code system).

#### **Team #4: Idea Incubator Program**

Patrick Backes  
Bruce Getzan  
Ram Manvi  
John Makevich  
Mike Sanders  
Cindy Grandgeorge

- Mentors: Mitjl Capet and Sharlene Coleal

The Idea Incubator Project will provide College of the Canyons with a systematic approach to the implementation of an idea. It will provide an open, easy way for all employees to share their ideas with others. Ideas affecting all areas of the campus, from instruction to budgeting to student services to facilities can be submitted. Ideas will be incubated with the help of campus experts (Idea Incubator coaches and Idea Incubator Resource Team members) and Executive Cabinet. The system will help avoid duplication of effort by creating a central repository for ideas. The Idea Incubator program will provide individuals an open, safe, and efficient way to explore and incubate their ideas with timely assistance from Idea Incubator Coaches and Idea Incubator Resource Team members. The program will provide help in developing the needed resources for the fruition of new ideas, as well as a process to revise and mold ideas to match the College's needs. And the program will also facilitate a systematic approach to implementing promising new ideas and avoiding duplication of efforts.

**Update: Feb 2010**

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## **IDEA INCUBATOR PROGRAM**

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## ***Overview***

The Idea Incubator Program at College of the Canyons is a new system by which college employees can submit innovative ideas, receive coaching by colleagues, and collaboratively develop an implementation plan. The pilot phase of this program will seek a new idea from an existing college committee and run it through the evaluation and advisement process, with the ultimate goal of a full launch. Once the program is open to all, any individual with an interest in submitting a new idea will be able to have it properly studied and vetted.

## ***Active Members***

- From original LEAP solution team: Patrick Backes, Cindy Grandgeorge, John Makevich
- Recent additions to the team: Tim Baber, Leslie Carr, Anne Marenco, Russell Waldon

## ***Accomplishments***

- Completed training materials for idea coaches and workshops.
- Developed template kits for resource teams (i.e. template business plans).
- Conducted meetings with former members of LEAP Solution Team, as well as newly recruited interested parties.

## ***Current tasks***

- Designing website for online submission of ideas and general information.
- Collaborating with Ed Tech committee on possible participation in pilot phase.
- Finalizing the details of the incubation process prior to pilot launch.
- Working closely with Professional Development to build resource and coaching teams.
- Planning additional “kick-off” sessions to introduce the program to the campus community.

## ***ESTIMATED Timeline***

February 2010 – March 2010	Plan and facilitate informational and “kick-off” sessions
March 2010	Begin run-through of pilot ideas
April 2010 – May 2010	Completion of website
May 2010	Review status of pilot ideas
End of Spring 2010	Shift from pilot phase to open application phase

## Team #5: Gardens of the Canyons

Murray Wood  
Juli Mosier  
Mimi Spankroy  
Paul Wickline  
Yvette Barrios  
John Green

\*Mentor: Diane Stewart  
\*Resource Person: Jim Schrage

The Gardens of the Canyons (the “Gardens”) and the Nature Walk grew out of the idea that the College of the Canyons Valencia campus has diverse natural beauty that should be documented, enhanced and incorporated into our educational programs. We believe that faculty, staff, students and the community will benefit from the Gardens and the Nature Walk for purposes of education, relaxation and exercise. The Gardens will serve as aesthetically pleasing outdoor spaces that will provide interdisciplinary outdoor classrooms and laboratories. This project is an educational opportunity for a wide variety of academic programs and it appeals to a broad cross-section of our community.

The Gardens of the Canyons will include a Nature Walk and future development of outdoor garden/classroom spaces. The team has identified 15 areas of interest for the Nature Walk. Each of the 15 areas will have a theme and will be marked with educational information relative to that theme. A map has been created to help navigate the Nature Walk. An interactive website will be developed that will include more in-depth educational information on each area of interest. Phase II of the project will target the Community and Meditation Gardens for enhancement and development into outdoor classrooms/laboratories which can be incorporated into the College’s educational programs. The Meditation Garden has potential future use as a special events area for COC faculty, staff and the community. Phase III will continue these services to the Canyon Country campus.

**Update: Feb 2010**



### **Original Proposed Timeline**

- ◆ Committee Formed - Spring 2009
- ◆ Friends of the Gardens - Spring 2009
- ◆ Nature Walk - Spring 2009
- ◆ Community Garden - Spring 2011
- ◆ Meditation Garden - Spring 2011
- ◆ Canyon Country Campus - Spring 2012

## Progress

- ◆ Summer 2009
  - ◆ Submitted grant proposal to the Weyerhaeuser Foundation for a \$5,000 grant to start our project.
  - ◆ Based on our history with that Foundation, we have a reasonable chance of receiving the grant.
  - ◆ We anticipate being notified about the grant in December.
- ◆ Fall 2009
  - ◆ LEAP team met on September 18<sup>th</sup>
  - ◆ Trying to plan a Flex workshop for Spring Flex Week
  - ◆ Forming Steering Committee and sub-committees
  - ◆ Children's Garden (Part of Nature Walk) is on schedule. CCC Children's Garden fencing, irrigation and planting areas are complete and in use by the children. The Center Garden & Nature Habitat Project Committee has been formed. The curriculum is being developed. The Valencia campus yard is expected to be done by the end of the school year. The external committee will be formed in conjunction with our committee.
  - ◆ Friends of the Gardens - Pam Bauer has been volunteering for the Foundation every Thursday morning. She is currently working on Murray Wood's proposed Adopt-A-Garden fundraising idea as part of our Friends of the Garden (FrOG). She is researching and building a database of all of the local garden centers, nurseries, and landscape firms in SCV, for us to identify as prospects.
- ◆ Winter 2010
  - ◆ LEAP team met on January 27<sup>th</sup> to finalize presentation for Flex workshop
  - ◆ Flex workshop held February 2<sup>nd</sup> - compiled list of participants wishing to serve on steering and sub committees
  - ◆ Heard from Weyerhaeuser Foundation that the guidelines for the grant have changed and we are no longer eligible
- ◆ Spring 2010
  - ◆ Met with Teresa Zuzevich to research other funding sources
  - ◆ Applied for Kaiser Foundation grant in the amount of \$20K for this project & the Canyon Country garden project

## Plans for next 3 - 6 months

- ◆ Continue researching funding sources
- ◆ Schedule first meeting of steering committee
- ◆ Develop website for Nature Walk & Gardens
- ◆ Create signage for garden areas

## Resources Needed

- ◆ LEAP team confirmed with Jim Schrage that we need \$5K to hold initial meeting with landscape architect to start drawing plans for the garden areas

## **Team #6: Team ABC - Arts and Business Learning Community at College of the Canyons**

Adam Philipson  
Elana Edelstein  
Rhonda Hyatt  
Renard Thomas  
Jamie Milteer  
Bianca Philippi  
**Kristen Houser**

- Mentor: Dena Maloney

As part of the 2009 Leadership Education in Action Program (LEAP) program at College of the Canyons, Team ABC (Arts and Business Learning Community) undertook the project of developing a successful, benefits-driven model for an interdisciplinary learning community that would bring business and art students together. Through joint exploration of creativity in business, art students will be exposed to the basics and practical application of business and the increasingly important role that art, design and creativity play in business strategy. Art students will gain a deeper appreciation and understanding of what is involved in developing and successfully managing a creative career and be introduced to possible new professional paths. Business students will be exposed to the basics and practical application of art and design and develop a greater awareness of how vitally important creativity is in terms of fostering innovation and business growth. Business students will learn new ways to think about their careers as well as business.

### **Update: Feb 2010**

Floyd Moos and I plan to contact the folks who are interested in participating as we LEAP forward with the fine work TEAM ABC developed for Leap. We are looking to assemble a group who would be interested in seeing this idea come to fruition. Floyd and I have been assigned to get this moving, but we will need a dedicated group to make it happen.

College of the Canyons will launch the Arts and Business Learning Community, a program that will bring together arts and business students:

- A series of non-credit workshops will offer students opportunities to meet and network with innovative cross-disciplinary professionals, learn about the competitive advantages of combining these two disciplines and create a stronger sense of self, purpose and personal brand in the process.
- The pilot program design includes four non-credit workshops of three hours in length, with students being asked to commit to attending the entire series. Planning and finalizing of the content and curriculum will take place in the Fall and Winter of the 10/11 school year, with the first series of workshops launching in the Spring of 2011.



The current projected costs for the program, including a faculty coordinator's stipend is just around \$13,400. Estimated enrollment for the pilot is 20-30 students. As the program becomes fully developed, it could be offered twice a year, bringing costs down to under \$250 per student. Students may be asked to pay a modest materials fee of \$25-\$35, as a nominal fee often creates greater commitment and better attendance.

- April - Reorganize team and solidify curriculum content for 12-16 hours of student contact
- September - Develop web page about program and link to business and art divisions
- Late Fall - Distribute flyers and brochures to faculty, academic counselors and students
- Early Spring - Visit department meetings to get buy in from faculty and build interest
- Summer - Confirm faculty and guest presenters
- Summer - Develop course materials and purchase materials, books and supplies
- Fall - Recruit student participants
- Mid Fall- Conduct Student Orientation