The Higher Learning Commission Action Project Directory

Iowa Lakes Community College

Project Details

<table>
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<tr>
<th>Title</th>
<th>Status</th>
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<tr>
<td>Enhance the Use of Technology to Improve Teaching and Learning</td>
<td>ACTIVE</td>
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<table>
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<tr>
<th>Category</th>
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<tr>
<td>1 - Helping Students Learn</td>
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<tr>
<th>Timeline</th>
<th>Reviewd</th>
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<tr>
<td>Planned Project Kickoff 09-30-2015</td>
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<td>Target Completion 09-30-2018</td>
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1: PROJECT SUMMARY

A: This project will allow the college to develop a planned process for providing faculty and students with up-to-date instructional technologies and infrastructure. Committees that handle various aspects selecting and purchasing instructional technology will come together to improve and coordinate processes for review, update, budgeting and purchase of instructional technologies. The project steering committee will develop processes to provide essential professional development. This committee will also lead a charge to gather the data necessary to guide our decisions as we select technologies which will have a broad impact throughout the college.

2: PROJECT RATIONALE

A: Effective integration of technology into the classroom and adequate teacher training are two major needs identified by faculty. On the 2014 CCSSE peer comparison report, lowa Lakes ranked the lowest of any lowa community college at an alarming low rate of 2.1% on active and collaborative learning. While it is apparent our student cohort is changing, we have not developed a short term or long term plan to gather data, or research new technologies which will help us determine how best to make change to instruction or to our classrooms.

Recent initiatives indicate that a technology infused classroom is appealing for both students and faculty. Because of the increased interest, and limited resources we must develop a systematic plan which will provide planned, judicious deployment of technologies to support teaching and student learning. A clear alignment between planning, acquisition, professional development, and use of technology, assessing outcomes, and continued growth in technology is needed.

Three committees play a major role developing the college's technology plan, the acquisition of technology and professional development for our instructors. These three committees are: Technology Strategic Plan Committee, T & E Committee, and Quality Faculty Plan Committee. These committees, if focused, could create the needed change, but currently lack a common vision to make it happen. By making this an AQIP Action Project we plan to create the vision and energize these committees to have shared goals, and to work together to achieve them.

3: PROJECT GOALS AND DELIVERABLES

A: The college expects the following organizational processes will change or improve as a result of this Action Project:

- Create a sustainable, systematic approach to continuously explore and assess new and emerging technologies.
- Develop a college-wide plan to assess current technology, and schedule updates.
- Develop and implement a plan for ongoing professional development to be provided for faculty on new and emerging technology to promote and enhance teaching and learning.
- Integrate technology resources into the learning environment to improve student learning and engagement, and evaluate the strengths or weaknesses of the technology.
- Effective assessment, analysis and planning, will provide direction and guidance in thoughtful and planned acquisition of the educational opportunities technology offers.
- Assessment will focus on determining the strengths and weaknesses of current processes to that end.
- Develop a committee that has representation from each of three current committees, along with instructors that are passionate about technology.
The new committee will develop the vision and goals, will work with current committees to develop and implement the processes to strategically enhance technology infrastructure, continuously explore and assess new and emerging technologies, and provide ongoing professional development for instructors to infuse technology into the classroom to maximize student engagement and learning.

The overall "outcome" measures for this project include:

- Decisions for acquisition are much more data driven.
- Increased number of technology enhanced classrooms.
- Percentage of trained faculty using technology enhanced teaching materials.
- Increased Student and Faculty satisfaction.
- Increased student engagement.

A three-year time span will allow the college to assess and implement particular action steps to carry out the Action Project, and to begin analysis of the initiatives. Year one will be assessing and planning. Year two implementation and analysis. Year three we will continue analysis and assessment.

### 4: INSTITUTIONAL INVOLVEMENT

The following areas are expected to be most affected or involved in this Action Project:
- Faculty and Program Coordinators
- Technology Department
- Technology Strategic Plan Committee
- Technology & Equipment Committee
- Quality Faculty Plan Committee

### 5: PROJECT CONTROL

- Stakeholders’ expectations as identified in surveys used as a starting point for the planning process
- Stakeholders’ satisfaction as identified in surveys
- Increased involvement of faculty in technology related professional development
- Increase in the number of technology resources integrated into the learning environment
- Implementation of technology integration identified in long range planning
- List of metrics to determine college priorities for technology will be developed and kept up to date

### 6: ANTICIPATED CHALLENGES TO PROJECT SUCCESS

As with many projects, the biggest challenge is going to be keeping groups on task and meeting timelines.

### 7: ADDITIONAL INFORMATION

Iowa Lakes is excited to implement this much-needed project and is looking forward to having a process in place to maintain up-to-date technology.