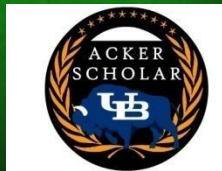


UAC Conference 2013



“Community Connections in the First Year: Incorporating civic engagement into a first year seminar for at risk students”

A Presentation by:
Dr. Ramelli Choates
Kirkshinta Turnipseed
Sarah Piraino



Today's Outline

- Introduction/ Overview
- Definitions
- Service Learning
- First-Year Seminar
- From Theory to Practice
- Student Success in the First Year
- Gerard Place Project

Cora P. Maloney College

Cora P. Maloney College (CPMC), chartered in 1976, is a unique college at the University at Buffalo focusing on a range of educational issues including; academic achievement and enhancement, social justice and cross cultural awareness. CPMC fosters the interconnectivity between UB students and their living and learning community, providing for a transformative undergraduate experience that supports growth in Buffalo and Western New York.

The college offers credit-bearing courses and support programs, designed to enrich the intellectual and personal development of university students.

ACE: Access to College Excellence Program

ACKER: Daniel Acker Scholars Program

PMP: Peer Mentoring Program

PSIP: Public Service Internship Program

UBSTEM: Sciences, Technology, Engineering & Mathematics

Statement of the Problem

Creating purposeful environments is critical to campus retention efforts, an area of national concern.



© 2007 Lisa Benson. Distributed by The Washington Post Writers Group. Reprinted with permission.

Definitions

First Year Seminar- a small discussion based course designed to “assist students in their academic and social development and in their transition to college”

Civic Engagement- acting upon a heightened sense of responsibility to one's communities

Service Learning- is a teaching and learning strategy that integrates meaningful community service with instruction and reflection to enrich the learning experience, teach civic responsibility, and strengthen communities

Service Learning Characteristics

- Meets academic learning objectives
- Involves experience with a community-based organization or group suitable for promoting civic learning
- Involves structured reflection or analysis
- Based upon principles of academy-community partnership and reciprocity

Service Learning Outcomes

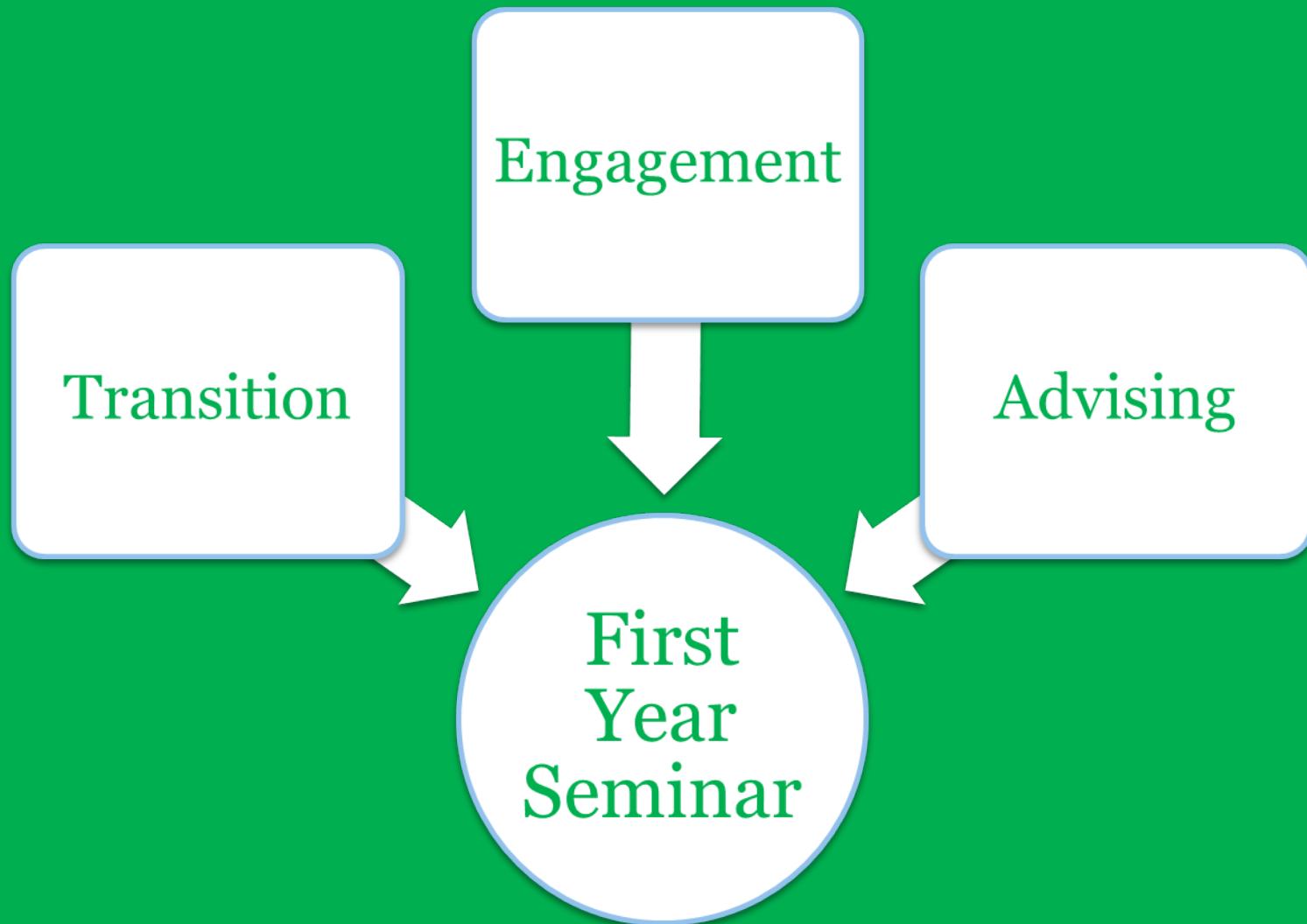
The integration of service into First Year Seminar has been shown to:

- Lead (indirectly) to retention
- Service participation during the first year is significantly and positively related to retention
- Service in the first year is related to enhanced student involvement and helps to facilitate academic and social integration
- Academic and social integration have been shown to be critical to retention

Other Service Learning Outcomes

- Impacts interpersonal development (ability to work with others, leadership & communication skills)
- Has positive impact on reducing stereotypes and increasing cross cultural understanding
- Positively impacts social responsibility and citizenship skills
- Students report stronger faculty relationships than those not involved in service learning
- Students report improved satisfaction with college
- Students are more likely to graduate

From Theory to Practice



First Year Student Success

Developing intellectual and academic competence

- Establishing and maintaining interpersonal relationships
- Exploring identity development
- Deciding on a career

Maintaining health and wellness

- Considering faith and the spiritual dimensions of life
- Developing multicultural awareness
- Developing civic responsibility

(Upcraft, Gardner & Barefoot (2005))

Demographics

High School Data

	ACE	Acker
Mean H.S. GPA	91%	92%
Combined SAT	979	1243
Gender	M= 10 F=16	M=7 F=3
Total	26	10

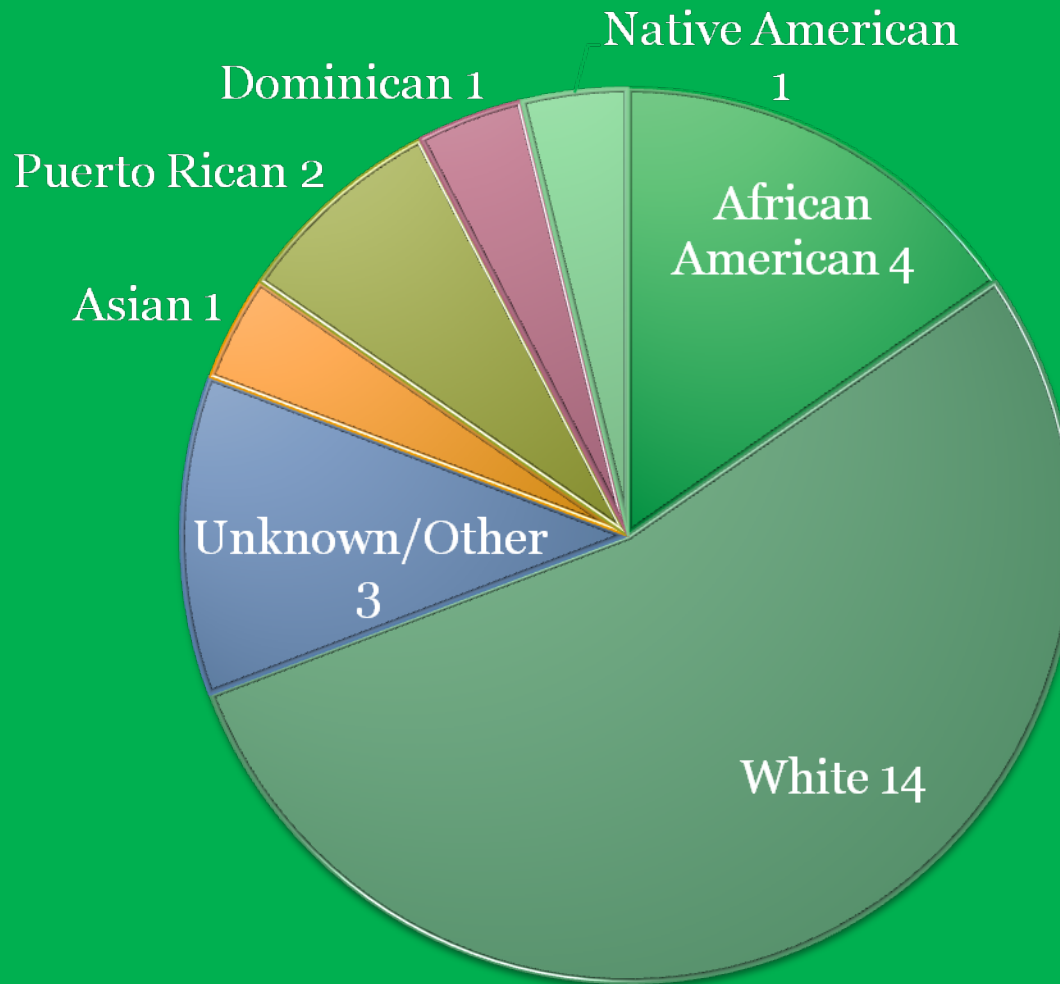
Demographics

College Data (Fall 2012)

	ACE	Acker
2.0 gpa or greater	92% (N= 24)	70% (N=7)
Credits Attempted	14	16.8
Credits Completed	13.8	14
Students retained (Sem. 1 to Sem. 2)	100% (N=26)	100% (N=10)

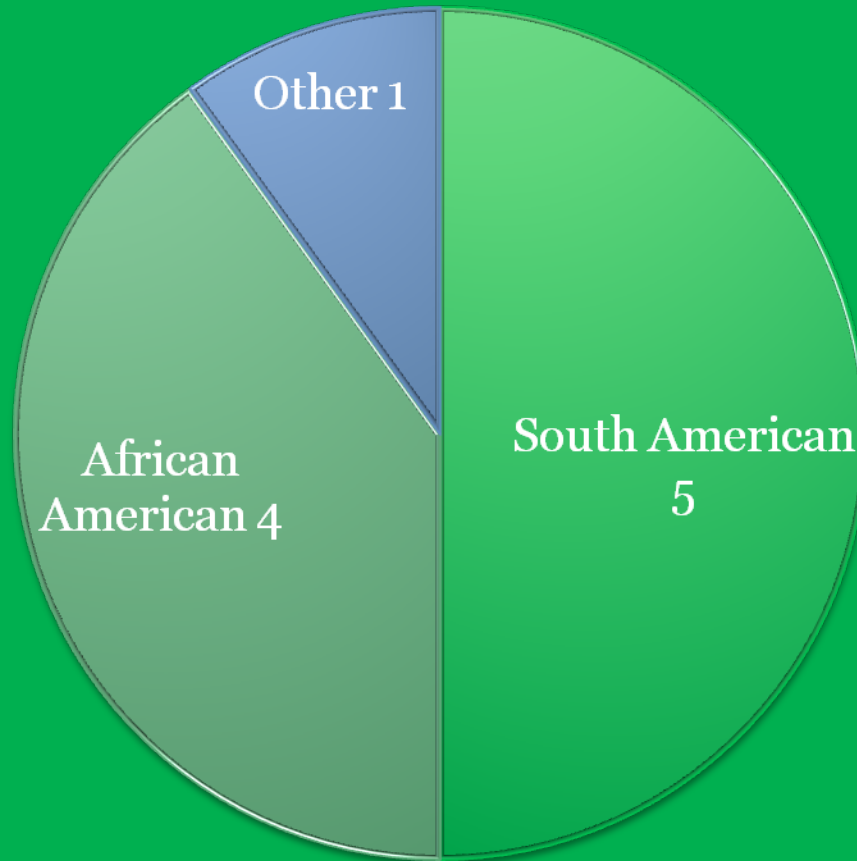
Ethnicity

ACE Program



Ethnicity

Acker Program





CPM 101 Project

“Youth Homelessness”

One of fifty children go to sleep each night in America without a home.

42% of homeless children in America are under age five.

The city of Buffalo ranks third in the nation as the poorest city nationwide.

More than one of every four Buffalo city residents live in poverty.

“...The scholarship of engagement means connecting the rich resources of the university to our most pressing social, civic, and ethical problems...Campuses would be viewed by both students and professors not as isolated islands, but as staging grounds for action...”

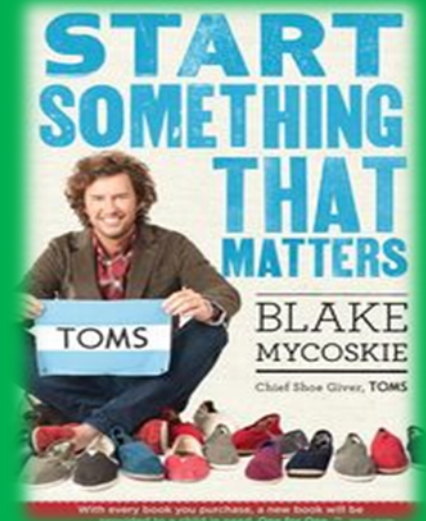
Ernest Boyer (1996), *The Journal of Public Service and Outreach*



- The 14215 zip code of “Gerard Place” has the highest rate of unemployment, highest rate of illiteracy and highest rate of kids in foster care in the region
- Gerard Place offers free GED, computer certification, life skills classes and job readiness training
- Gerard Place currently serves 14 families (residents)
- Gerard Place serves the surrounding neighborhood

Integrating a Service Learning Project into your First Year Seminar Course:

- Choose a FYS theme (ex: “Youth Homelessness)
- Identify potential collaborative project partners
- Select a partner community agency
- Choose a book/text
- Present project to students
- Introduce students to service learning
- Maintain theme continuity throughout the course
- Monitor / support the project
- Use Social Media to promote the project
- Encourage ongoing reflection
- Encourage ongoing engagement
- Celebrate their accomplishments!
- Grading: determining participation efforts
- Press Release
- Evaluation/ Assessment



What Our Student's Said About the Project

“Community Service is something I’ve always wanted to do and I’m happy I got to do it in this class. It saddens me to see people who have nothing”

“If I won the Mega-Millions I would try to consider my money and put it towards better causes than just myself. I am a strong believer in putting others in front of myself”

“When my mom asked what I wanted for Christmas this year I had a lot on my mind...instead of getting Christmas presents the money my mom would spend on me will be donated to a charity of my choice. This is something that would make me happier than presents under the tree”

What Our Student's Said About the Project

“I feel like I’m so excited to be a part of something this important. It is so incredibly important to help people in need”

“I couldn’t imagine growing up having nothing to play with. That’s why I think this project is so great”

“The story (our instructors) told us about the baby was so heart-warming, that makes us want to find toys for the agency”

Student Participants



Student Participants



Student Participants



Press Coverage



The Buffalo
CRITERION

UB REPORTER
NEED TO KNOW NEWS AND VIEWS FOR UB FACULTY AND STAFF

Other Models

- **Wright State University** <http://www.libraries.wright.edu/servicelearning/wp-content/uploads/2011/06/project001.pdf>

- **Bonner Scholars Program**

<http://bonner.pages.tcnj.edu/community-engaged-learning/first-year-seminar-class-projects-2011/previous-first-year-seminar-class-projects/>

- **Illinois College**

<http://www.ic.edu/firstyearseminars>

- **Your Program Here**

Looking Towards the Future

- Continue evaluation of themes and course materials
- Assessments (pre/post)
- Include additional inventories/assessments
- Offer current CPM 101 students the opportunity to serve as mentors *for next semester*
- Connect students to the project on a personal level
- Continue to seek out collaborative partners

Thank You!

Dr. Ramelli Choates, rchoates@buffalo.edu

Kirkshinta Turnipseed, kt23@buffalo.edu

Sarah Piraino, sw28@buffalo.edu

<http://www.cads.buffalo.edu/cpmc/index.php>