**Learning Communities at Bergen Community College**

**Initial Community Proposal: Fall 2015 Implementation**

This proposal must be submitted by January 5, 2015 to Eileen Fitzgerald (efitzgerald@bergen.edu; A-333) or Maria Kasparova (mkasparova@bergen.edu; A-333).

**Community Name** \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_Early Childhood Education and ESL Reading\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

Instructor 1: \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ Course 1: \_\_EDU 101 Introduction to Education\_\_\_

Instructor 2: \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ Course 2: \_\_ALP 064 Level 3 Reading\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

Instructor 3: \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ Course 3: \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

Campus: Paramus \_\_\_\_X\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ Meadowlands \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

Have the above faculty consulted with their program Chairs and Deans? Yes \_\_X\_\_\_\_ No \_\_\_\_\_\_

Have the faculty members attended a Learning Communities workshop? Yes \_\_X\_\_\_\_ No \_\_\_\_\_\_

**Rationale**. Briefly explain how your separate courses will be integrated into a Learning Community. Please include the topic, concept, problem, issue and/or skill that you will explore in the context of the linked courses. Feel free to indicate any integrative assignments, activities, and/or readings that you plan to utilize.

We intend to integrate the following units from EDU 101 with ALP 064:

* Different Ways of Learning
* Teaching Your Diverse Students
* History of American Education
* Philosophy of Education

The Education class will focus on the content while the ALP class will work on content, vocabulary, and reading skills.

Some integrative assignments include:

* Research project (information literacy)
* Reading, summarizing, discussing newspaper articles
* Journal entries based on textbook

**Objectives and Outcomes.** What common SLO(s) will your community address? What student outcomes will you pursue?

While each course has different learning outcomes, we believe that the outcomes of the two courses complement one another:

Education 101:

* Describe and evaluate the major issues and trends occurring in the teaching profession.
* Describe current educational practices and issues from a historical context.
* Discuss and evaluate selected theories of education and explain implications of each for schooling.
* Research a topic of interest and then create a project that effectively demonstrates the steps of Inquiry-based learning from idea to implementation.

ALP-064:

* Use reading strategies and critical thinking to understand and respond to texts.
* Use study skill techniques to understand and recall information in level appropriate texts.
* Expand vocabulary.
* Develop information literacy skills.

The ALP learning outcomes will be practiced in both the ALP class and the Education one.

**Resources and Student Support Services**. How will your community integrate student support services and academic support services? What other resources might you desire (smart classrooms, other technology, field trips, speakers, etc.)?

* We would like SMART classrooms and a tutor.

**Co-Curricular & Civic Engagement**. How will your community foster connections with the college and civic communities?

* Students in this learning community will have the opportunity to observe a number of classes.
* They will have an opportunity to attend an Education Conference held at BCC (if there is one).

**Learning Communities at Bergen Community College**

All Learning Communities at Bergen Community College strive to provide an intentionally integrated learning experience for our students and faculty. Faculty collaborate to engage students in cross-curricular exploration of a common theme and common SLOs while supporting students in developing the critical thinking, communication, and interpersonal skills vital to their academic and professional success.

**Hallmarks:**

* Two or three linked classes
* Common cohort in all classes
* College & Community connections
* Academic, Technological, and Plant Resources
* At least three Integrated Experiences: Assignment, Project, and/or Trip
* At least one co-graded assignment
* At least one community-specific SLO
* Five meetings during a 15-week semester
* Administration of a student survey and/or other evaluation
* Integrated Academic Support Services

**Process:**

* Attend an Informational Meeting
* Complete a proposal form
* Submit proposal to your dean and chair to start the scheduling process after proposal is approved
* Participate in a two part workshop
	+ Part 1: Theoretical Frameworks & Best Practices
	+ Part 2: Practical Applications & Design
* Design & Implement your community
* Access ongoing support and professional development
* Revitalize your teaching and scholarship!