The What, Why and How of Integrative Learning and the Integrated Academic and Personal Development of Students

EIU Mission Statement
Eastern Illinois University is a public comprehensive university that offers superior, accessible undergraduate and graduate education. Students learn the methods and results of free and rigorous inquiry in the arts, humanities, sciences, and professions, guided by a faculty known for its excellence in teaching, research, creative activity, and service. The University community is committed to diversity and inclusion and fosters opportunities for student-faculty scholarship and applied learning experiences within a student-centered campus culture. Throughout their education, students refine their abilities to reason and to communicate clearly so as to become responsible citizens and leaders.

President Perry’s Goal for EIU
Eastern Illinois University will be the best in the nation in the integrated academic and personal development of students.

President Perry’s Goal for EIU reworked from the student perspective – for discussion purposes – one thought
Students attending EIU will have an exceptional educational experience that focuses on integrating their academic and personal development.

Why Provide An Integrated Experience?
• In an increasingly complex world, students need skills and attitudes to draw, understand, and evaluate increasingly large quantities of information from multiple sources. This capacity depends on how well they can see connections among and integrate seemingly disparate facts, theories, and contexts.
• Students report that some of their most meaningful learning experiences occur outside of class
• Integrative skills are ranked highly among employers in engineering, education, business, and other fields.
• Cognitive research suggests that students learn more deeply and that their learning lasts longer when they are encouraged to draw connections among ideas and experiences.
• EIU is a public institution uniquely positioned to offer students a personal learning experience—much like a private school experience—at public school prices.
• EIU is the “Best Choice” for students who want to grow academically and personally. This is realized by our commitment to teaching and to an infrastructure that supports multiple opportunities for integrating experiences.

What is an Integrative Learning Experience?
Integrative Learning encourages students to explore and determine who they want to be and what they want to do with their lives. Integrative learning provides environments, opportunities, and activities that enable students to connect
• Intellectual study ↔ Personal Life
• Formal Education ↔ Work
• Knowledge ↔ Social Responsibility and Action
What Outcome do we want to achieve through these efforts?
Integrative Learners are intentional learners who adapt to change and new environments, integrate knowledge gained from different sources and experiences, and continue learning as a lifelong habit. They are

- **empowered** through the mastery of intellectual and practical skills;
- **informed** by understanding the social and natural worlds;
- **responsible** for their actions and values.

How does all this happen?
Students become **informed** and **empowered** learners in the classroom, lab, and studio by

- studying a state-of-the-art curriculum including a strong honors curriculum
- using collaborative methods to expand the perspectives they bring to their academic work
- reflecting on the connections between coursework and personal experiences and development

Students become **empowered** and **responsible** learners outside the formal classroom, lab, and student context through their participation in

- RSOs
- Residence life
- Greek life
- Student government and its activities
- Athletics
- Community Service
- Symposia/performances

Students become **informed**, **empowered**, and **responsible** learners by engaging in and receiving debriefing on activities that draw from both classroom and out-of-class experiences, such as

- Research, Inquiry and Creative Activity
- Service-Learning
- Internships
- Teaching Practica
- Performances and Exhibits
- Off-Campus Conferences
- Study Abroad/National Student Exchange
Things to do:

1. Complete the grid – strategies and outcomes
2. Student centered Presidential purpose statement
3. Need to develop a communications plan that encompasses both external and internal constituencies.

Next steps – people and groups that need to be involved with the development of the initiative

1. All of Deans Council members
2. Jill Nilsen, Dan Nadler
3. Monica Ziegler
4. Mildred Pearson
5. Brenda Majors
6. Kimberlie Moock
7. Karla Sanders
8. Mark Hudson/Jody Stone
9. Barbara Burke
10. Linda Moore
11. Steve Rich – alumni connections
12. External relations people
13. Campus councils
   a. CAA
   b. CGS
   c. Faculty Senate
   d. COTE
   e. Staff Senate
14. Students