

LEARNING COMMUNITIES UPDATE, October 26, 2007

This fall, the Medical School has initiated the process for development of “learning communities” for all students. The learning community project is a collaborative adventure among faculty, students and staff on both campuses, to imagine and conceive the processes and resources for learning in a competency-based medical education! “Learning communities” will serve our learners as long term mentoring networks for integration, discussion, synthesis and reflection.

Aims for students:

- Establish a long term network of faculty and peers
- Guide professional development
- Provide learner interaction across competency levels
- Offer formative feedback
- Create avenues for synthesis of medical knowledge, clinical skills

Student Aims Met via:

- Continuous professional relationships with faculty, peers, educational consultants
- One-on-one reviews with “learning community leader”
- Peer reviews
- Small group discussion with faculty and with peers at similar competency levels
- Large group discussion with faculty and with peers at multiple competency levels
- Identifying individual and group needs

Progress report

1. Pilot phase: 2007-2008

- All first year medical students in Twin Cities and Duluth will have one-on-one sessions with faculty mentors (ongoing)

2. October 16, 2007

- Learning communities leadership team meeting
- 3 teams are charged to develop the roles, responsibilities and accountability:
 - Faculty (leaders: Drs. Wes Miller and Colin Campbell)
 - Educational consultants (leader: Dr. Marilyn Becker)
 - Assessment (leader: Dr. Karla Hemesath)
- Each team has faculty, staff and students (6 per team)
- Interim reports are due in November
- Final report are due in December
- Final report to the Dean is due in January 2008

More to follow in future updates.

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