

# 2011 NAC&U Summer Institute

Keeping it Real—The Role of Work Experiences  
in Undergraduate Education

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*Guided by data, driven by service*

# Agenda

- Introduction
- History of experiential education
- Leveraging experiential education
- Programs that work
- Conclusion

# Introduction

- The creation of career-related, educationally purposeful, experiential opportunities has been part of undergraduate landscape for a long time.
- For a few institutions, it is mission critical and part of their brand promise.
- Experiential education is not another curricular / cocurricular option; rather it helps fulfill institutional priorities.
- This session explores alternatives and types of programs that have been successful.

## History of Experiential Education – Broadly Defined

- John Dewey’s philosophy of progressive education – educate the whole person
- William Jones: “first and secondhand knowledge”
- University of Cincinnati Work Study in 1906
- Work-related study at Antioch in 1921
- West Georgia College used education and resources to assist surrounding communities in 1930’s.
- Goddard College’s “summer work camps”

## History (cont'd)

- Experiential Education
  - Grew out of a concern about the aloofness of the liberal arts
  - Contributes to the aims of a liberal education
  - Links theory and practice
  - Active, not passive learning
- Detractors saw experiential education as vocationalism.

## History (cont'd)

- Cooperative Education
  - Institutional signature
    - Northeastern University
    - Drexel University
    - University of Cincinnati
    - Kettering University (formerly GMI)

## History (cont'd)

- Work Colleges, for example:
  - Blackburn College, IL
  - Berea College, KY
  - Warren Wilson College, NC
  - College of the Ozarks, MO
  - Alice Lloyd College, KY
- Internships – For pay? For credit? For both?
- Work study and financial aid
- Community service and service Learning
- Undergraduate research
- Study abroad

# Notable Programs

- Campus Compact
  - College and university presidents and students
  - Founded in 1985
  - Community service and service learning
- Smith College
  - Praxis Internships
- Utah State University Undergraduate Fellowship Program
  - 30 to 40 top first-year students

## Notable Programs (cont'd)

- Davidson College - Research and Experiential Learning
  - Center for Civic Engagement growth
  - Dean Rusk Travel Grants
  - Spiritual Exploration/Staley Grants
  - Abernathy Research Grants
  - Howard Hughes Medical Institute Research Program

## Notable Programs (cont'd)

- Cornell Tradition – Began 1982
  - Today the Tradition Fellows:
    - 4% of the Cornell undergraduate population. Benefits include:
      - Service Support Account – up to \$3,500 over 4 years
      - Fellowship Awards – up to \$4,000 to replace loans
      - Employment Support – wage subsidy
      - Summer Expected Savings Replacement
      - Peer Advisory Network
      - Connect with Community Leaders

## Leveraging Experiential Education Programs: Multiple Institutional Goals and Objectives

- Work ethic reward
- Successful recruitment strategy as well as retention initiative
- More than money – career related
- Sense of obligation to future generations
- Effectively engage alumni in support of alma mater
- Also engage employers to sample an institution's product
- Involve the academic enterprise
- Create the chance to address social, economic, and environment challenges

## Leveraging Experiential Education Programs (cont'd)

- Leverage donated funds by:
  - Career-related job
  - Endowed gift opportunities
  - Matching opportunities
  - Challenge grants
  - Student enterprises
  - Partnerships
- Create synergy across the institution

# Conclusion

- Quality interaction
  - Faculty and students
  - Self-help and work
  - Citizenship and community
  - Relevancy and employability
- Create linkages
  - Prior generations
  - Within the Academy
- Integrate
  - Liberal arts
  - Professional studies
  - Civic responsibility

# Your Campus Experience With Experiential Education Programs?

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