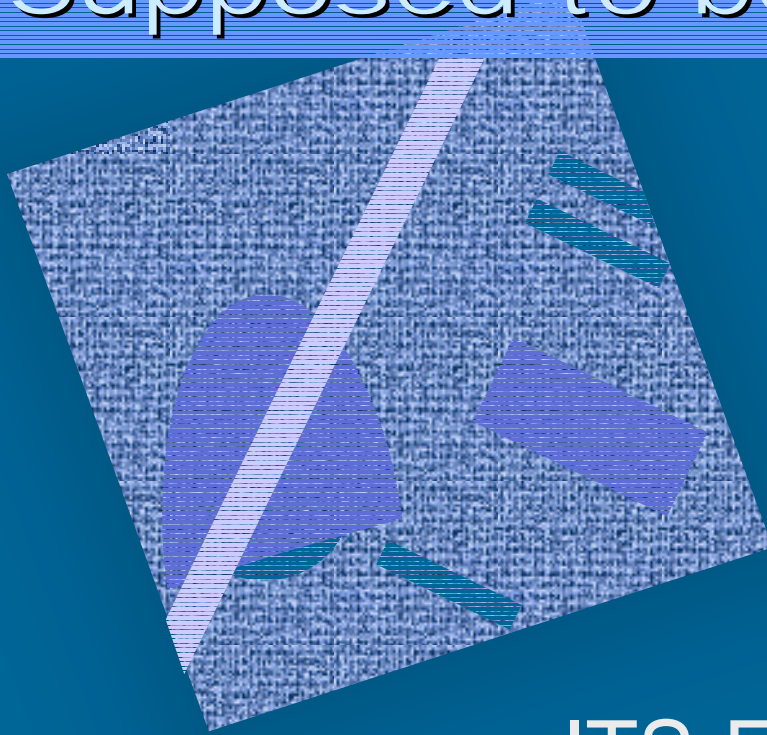


"Hey, I Thought Gen Ed Was
Supposed to be Boring!"



Marilyn Drury, Director
TyAnn Morehead
ITS-Educational Technology
University of Northern Iowa

University of Northern Iowa

- Rated #2 by US News & World Report in Top Midwestern Public Universities
- Cedar Falls, Iowa (pop. 34,292)
- 93% of UNI's students are Iowa residents (14,000 students)
- Primary focus undergraduate education
- Enrollment has grown by nearly 8% in last five years

May Institute/May Seminar

- May was a time faculty might be “more” available
- Provides opportunity for continuance of work during summer months
- Good weather!!

Purposes

- Redesign of general education courses
 - Improve student learning outcomes
 - Incorporate technology as appropriate
 - Increase student involvement in learning
- Create a sense of community among those who teach general education courses

Organization

- Funded by Provost's Office
- Joint effort
 - Center for the Enhancement of Teaching
 - ITS-Educational Technology
 - Both contributed in-kind staffing/facilities
- Institutes – three weeks
- Seminar – one week

Participants

- Faculty who teach core courses in general education
 - Humanities I & II
 - Non-Western Cultures
 - Capstone
- Included tenure-track faculty, instructors, and adjuncts
- Faculty received stipends - \$600/week

Format

- 9-4 daily
- Designed using the Kolb Model of Experiential Learning
 - Concrete experience
 - Reflective observation
 - Abstract conceptualization
 - Active experimentation

Activities

- Readings
 - Discussions
 - Presentations
 - Activities
 - Digital scavenger hunt
 - Technology workshops
 - Digitizing Fair
 - Project work
- Presentations at end

Outcomes

- Renewed connections among those who teach core general education courses
- Enhanced skill in instructional design, development, and evaluation
- Creation of faculty websites
- Revised syllabi and study guides
- Creation of digital art, music, video for use by students and other faculty
- Development of collaborative learning group approach

Support

- Continued support from both Centers
 - Pedagogy
 - Technology
- Monthly meetings
 - Sustain momentum
 - Achieve goals
- Eligibility for Provost minigrants

What has changed?

- Kenneth Atkinson, Philosophy & Religion
 - Pre-Institute – no HTML knowledge
 - Post-Institute – extensive web site
 - <http://www.uni.edu/atkinson>
- Roy Sandstrom, History
 - Two-time Institute participant
 - Participant 2000
 - Assisted in planning/participant 2001
 - <http://fp.uni.edu/sandstr>

Technology Enhances Good Practice

- Encourages contacts between students and faculty
- Uses active learning techniques
- Gives prompt feedback
- Emphasizes time on task
- Respects diverse talents and ways of learning

Evaluation

- Institutes/seminars
 - Individual interviews and questionnaires
- Courses
 - Interviews of students by Center for the Enhancement of Teaching staff
 - Online surveys made available to all Humanities I & II students

The Future

- Support from Provost's Office is strong
- Tentative plans to continue through other General Education categories
- Strong commitment to learning and teaching, especially general education

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- Materials
 - <http://fp.uni.edu/its/et/presentations>