

Monitoring Report: The GRCC Experience**July 15, 2013****Presented by: Eric Mullen, Tina Hoxie, Mike Light, Mike Schavey, and Charles Wells****Policy Type: Ends****Policy Title: The GRCC Experience**

Student involvement across the institution is considered a practice that can impact whole student development, improve student learning, and have a positive effect on student success (Astin, 1984; Kuh, 1995; Pascarella & Terezini, 2005). The GRCC Experience describes a broad array of co-curricular programs that compliment the classroom experience and allow students an opportunity to practice and improve their personal, social, academic and professional skills. Among many goals, these programs empower students to become active and engaged citizens at GRCC and within our greater communities. These experiences strongly support student learning around two of our Institutional Learning Outcomes: Personal Responsibility and Social Responsibility. Some of the GRCC programs that contribute to the promotion of the GRCC Experience End include Student Involvement and Leadership Development programs, Academic Service Learning, Athletics, Community Service Work Study, and Academic Sponsored Co-curricular Events.

This Monitoring Report presents the benefits and challenges of involving students in co-curricular programs, while also providing examples and indicators of success for those areas listed above that contribute to the GRCC Experience. Institutionally, the GRCC Experience End is being monitored by tracking the number of students who participate in our student organizations, athletic teams, and academic service learning programs, and by the number of credit classes that offer a co-curricular activity option within the course experience. The data and analysis are reported. Additionally, the report covers the status of the current College Action Project regarding the use of a Portfolio System and provides overall areas of improvement to be explored in regards to the GRCC Experience, as identified by the reporting team.

Highlights of the report are as follows:

- In response to strong feedback and use of the *Go See GR!* Program piloted during Winter 2012, the program was expanded during the 2012-13 academic year to include 5 museums (Grand Rapids Public Museum, Grand Rapids Art Museum, Grand Rapids Children's' Museum, UICA, and the Ford Museum). 3,159 students participated in the program this year (1,499 more than the previous year).
- Student athletes continue to earn a cumulative grade point average higher than that of the average full time student at GRCC (traditional age, freshman or sophomore status), while also demonstrating a high transfer rate. In addition, the athletic program had a highly successful year on the field and court earning a national championship in women's volleyball, and the men's baseball, basketball and golf teams competed at the national level as well.
- Numerous academic departments and faculty initiate and host co-curricular programs with the aim of engaging students in activities and experiences outside of (and in direct conjunction with) the classroom. Some examples from 2012-2013 include the Race, Ethnicity and Identity Conference, Idea Pitch Competition, and the Psychology Speaker Series.
- Experiential Learning coordinated the annual Armen Awards, team competition event designed to inspire best practices for teaching and learning. Using the principles of innovation and service learning, students, faculty, and community partners formed teams to create a product that results in shared impact. The winners included the Dental Program's partnership with Salvation Army Booths Family Services (1st Place), a healthy lifestyle education program between East Leonard School and a GRCC Physical Education Course (2nd Place), and an Computer Course's development of a mobile app for the student newspaper, The Collegiate.