Student Engagement at Ramapo College

Introduction

Student engagement represents the time and effort students devote to activities empirically linked to the intended outcomes of college and what institutions do to both provide these activities and induce students to participate in them (Kuh, 2009).

Ramapo College has transitioned from a primarily commuter serving institution to a residential community that prides itself on the high quality curricular, co-curricular, and extra-curricular activities that it offers its students. Four pillars – experiential learning, interdisciplinary thinking, intercultural understanding, and international awareness – define the priority goals for student learning. However, no integrated, intentional, and synergistic plan for student engagement currently exists.

According to Kuh (2001) and Pascarella/Terenzini (2005), a student engagement plan details how an institution deploys its resources and organizes the curriculum, other learning opportunities, and support services in order to provide positive experiences and to produce desired outcomes such as persistence, satisfaction, learning and graduation. In order to facilitate these ends, the Committee on Student Engagement at Ramapo College (CoSEaR) is charged with leading the development of a plan for student engagement at the College.

Charge to the Committee on Student Engagement at Ramapo College

The Committee on Student Engagement at Ramapo College is charged with the development of an integrated, intentional, and synergistic plan for student engagement at the College. Specifically, the Committee will:

- Create a student engagement plan organized along a continuum (e.g. first year, middle years, final year) of college experiences;
- Define or characterize these stages of student engagement in college experiences and activities;
- Define desired outcomes for students as a result of their engagement;
- Produce an inventory of current student engagement activities;
- Determine how current activities link to desired outcomes and in what stage(s);
- Identify new activities that Ramapo College should consider implementing;
- Determine how the final plan will be communicated to students (intentional), how all units of the College can support the Plan (integrated), and how desired outcomes can be developed across activities and stages of the plan (synergistic).