

Using Learning Communities to Foster Futuring: The BGSU Experience

Kay Strong, BGSU Firelands
Bonnie Fink, The Center

Changing the world by degrees

Using Learning Communities to Foster Futuring

Overview

- Understanding faculty/community learning communities (LCs)
- Introducing BGSU Firelands learning communities
- Examining deliverables from the LCs
- Discussing the combination of LCs and futuring

Using Learning Communities to Foster Futuring

Learning communities are innovative, trans-disciplinary, collaborative environments centered on shared learning.

- Defined as a community not a committee established to collectively address a topic or issue
- Committed to community building, transformational change, and deep learning
- Involved in sharing resources and expertise with the expectation of deliverables and change
- Centered on learning-centric philosophy that achieves professional development

Website for Developing Faculty and Professional Learning Communities (FLCs) to Transform Campus Culture for Learning

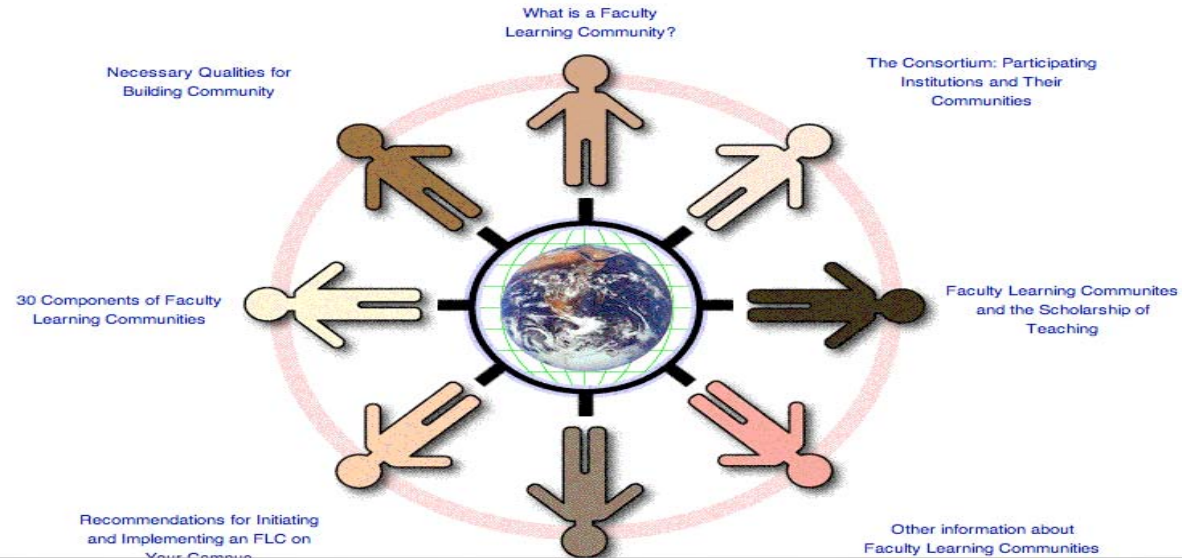
You are invited to the 2007 New FLC Developers' and Facilitators' Institute and FLC Conference, June 20 - 23, Claremont Graduate University

Welcome! This website is dedicated to informing, teaching, and encouraging visitors to investigate and initiate Faculty Learning Communities on their campuses. You are welcome to contact any of the directors at the colleges and universities in the Consortium that are implementing Faculty Learning Communities. I invite you to join the Consortium and participate in this project. Please contact me if you would like more information.

You are invited to see our new book, *Building Faculty Learning Communities*, Volumes 97 in the Jossey-Bass series, *New Directions for Teaching and Learning*. See the list of [chapters](#) and [descriptions](#) produced by our 21 authors, and the [ordering information](#) online.



Milton D. Cox, Project Director
FIPSE Project on Faculty Learning Communities
Director, Center for the Enhancement of Learning and Teaching
Miami University, Oxford, Ohio
email: coxmd@muohio.edu



Using Learning Communities to Foster Futuring

The BGSU Firelands Learning Community Experience

- **Initiatives for the Future (IF) Learning Community** fosters professional development for faculty learning how to teach about the future, teach for the future, and teach in the future.
- **'E-futuring' Learning Initiative** had teachers and public school students exploring the future together, learning how to integrate futuring perspectives and methodologies into teaching/learning strategies.

CENTER FOR TEACHING LEARNING AND TECHNOLOGY

**THE IF LEARNING COMMUNITY AT BGSU FIRELANDS
LC APPLICATION**

Overview

Delve into the FUTURE!

Learn how to teach about the future, teach for the future and teach in the future!

- Look Backward to the Future.
- Deduce how Choice, Chance, Chaos & Wildcards impact the future.
- Perfect your Trend Watching Skills.
- Open the Futurist Toolbox: Get some practice.
- Retool your mind! Expand the possibilities!
- Assess your "Seventh Generation yet Unborn" Responsibility.
- Create basic futures exercises to use in your course.

Description

Empower your students with the gift of foresight. As Edward Cornish, former President of the World Future Society, says, "developing our futuring skills will sharpen our ability to assess the probabilities, anticipate consequences, and choose ever-wiser courses of action that can lead us to the best possible future." *

IF Learning Community members will (a) creatively explore the future together, (b) learn how to integrate futuring perspectives and methodologies into teaching strategies and (c) develop and pool teaching materials for course adoption.

*Futuring: The Exploration of the Future by Edward Cornish (2004)

CLICK HERE to download the application.

*Due to CMS restrictions the file will automatically be named filebinary.doc when downloaded.

NORTHWEST REGIONAL CENTER

- NWLC Center Home
- Learning Communities
- Resources
- Advisory Committee

LEARNING COMMUNITIES
NORTHWEST REGIONAL CENTER

E-FUTURING
LEARNING COMMUNITY

Institution/Partners: Firelands College, Bowling Green State University
World Future Society <http://www.wfs.org/>
Northern Ohio Educational Computer Association <http://www.noeca.esu.k12.oh.us/>

Facilitator: Kay Strong, Associate Professor

Core Members:
Judith Horchler, Assistant Professor
Danette Johnson, Director of Office for Educational Outreach
Kathy Mohr, Telecommunity Coordinator
Rita Rohlf, Director, NOECA

Additional Members:
Julie Hamann, Director of Technology Support Services
James Kimble, Web Production Manager
Earl Lisk, Audio Visual Specialist
Timothy Mack, President, World Future Society

Summary of Goals:

- Develop and deliver "futures" training materials.
- Creatively explore the future together.
- Learn how to integrate futuring perspectives and methodologies into the teaching strategies.
- Develop and pool teaching materials to support electronic dissemination and use in the 9-16 education system.

Presentations

e-futuring Learning Initiatives Overview: 2006 Fall Kick-Off Presentation

Getting Students to Focus on the Future: Dr. Kay Strong

The Future is Yours: Tim Mack, President, World Future Society

Overview of Education in 2050: Project completed by South Central High School and Sandusky High School students

Education in 2050 Project: Example from Sandusky High School students

Education, Where we were, Where we are, and Where to go: Paul Hemminger, EHOVE Career Center

Using Learning Communities to Foster Futuring

In January 2007, BGSU Firelands offered the course, **Introduction to Futuring**, which focused on three fundamental growth stages:

- Validating futuring and personal empowerment
- Perfecting trend watching skills and using the toolkit of a futurist
- Enhancing personal creativity and strengthening social responsibility toward the future

Using Learning Communities to Foster Futuring

Creating a culture of learning is possible when you combine the

- **power of learning communities** (innovative, trans-disciplinary shared learning) with
- **futuring** and its primary goal of **improving future outcomes** (active inquiry, creative problem solving, and examination of values in decision making).

Your comments and/or questions?