

Spotlight on Action Plans

Using concepts, principles, or strategies introduced at the 2013 Institute for a Superior Liberal Arts Education, the 2013 Institute participants generated an array of ideas for advancing liberal arts education at their own school, college, or university.

Each e-newsletter will feature a few summaries of action plan ideas.

University of Chicago

The demand for the Collegiate Scholars Program is extremely high. By increasing the cohort enrollment, the Collegiate Scholars Program will be able to have a larger impact in the lives of Chicago Public Schools students. The goal of this action project is to expand the program enrollment from 36 to 45 students per year. The project will involve collaborating with leaders across the University of Chicago to develop and implement a strategy to diversify funding methods that will lead to increased grants and donations.

Mother McAuley High School's Writing Assessment Project

Because students need to transfer proficient writing skills across academic disciplines; therefore, teachers must directly instruct students how to write in each discipline. Subsequently, assessment must adequately and specifically measure students' writing skills in all academic courses. For its action project, Mother McAuley High School will involve administrators, department chairs, teachers, and students in developing rubrics for assessing students' writing across the disciplines. To do this, writing traits and skills will be created and categorized by grade level.

Otterbein University' Integrative Studies Program

One of the unique features of Otterbein's general education is its focus on integrative learning. However, motivating and identifying the appropriate number of faculty is challenging. Building on ideas gained in the 2013 Institute, Otterbein will focus on increasing faculty participation in the INST program for its action project. To do this, they will create "thread meetings" of faculty teaching versions of a same IS course meet together to talk about what is working, what is challenging, and whether and how outcomes are being met. They will also design and implement a "Great Expectations" Conference for all faculty that will focus on teaching in the general education program. Finally, they will institutionalize new rewards and expectations for participating in the general education program.

St. Xavier High School's Faculty Development Program for Writing Excellence

St. Xavier has a longstanding and unique mission focused on writing excellence. Much of the knowledge of the mission and tradition of the writing program resides in veteran faculty members. To ensure the continued success of writing instruction, the faculty will create a refined and online presence for writing instruction that will offer instructional tools and resources to new and veteran faculty members.