Teaching and Learning Symposium Poster Proposal 2013

Poster Title: Student Driven Peer Mentorship Pilot Project

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Possible Co-Presenters are UWB Undergraduate Project Members:

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Description:

This student driven peer mentorship pilot project is a small group of undergraduates collaborating to envision, explore, and through experiential learning “do” peer mentoring (seniors and juniors mentoring sophomores) with the guidance of a second year Cultural Studies graduate student. The project aims to create an innovative space for students to build supportive relationships, collaborate with peers, connect with campus resources, and use self-reflexivity to recognize learning of self and others. This project acts as a catalyst in creating a sustainable program driven by the student voice. This project is part of a graduate research study that investigates peer mentorship as a tool for student success.

Research Abstract: Institutional data from University of Washington Bothell show a higher rate of sophomore attrition between sophomore and junior year. The purpose of the research is to design, implement, document, and evaluate a peer mentorship pilot project for and by undergraduate students. The project core is discovering the reciprocal impacts of peer mentorship relationships; upperclassmen mentoring sophomores. Through student driven values participants collaborate in project design and implementation. The project creates an innovative space for students to grow as visionaries through team building to encourage relationships, self-reflexive activities, collaborating with peers, connecting with campus resources, and co-creating a program sustainability proposal. This study could reveal reasons behind high sophomore attrition rates while discovering through firsthand accounts how the university can support student success and increase sophomore retention via a peer mentorship program.