Major Challenges and Opportunities Associated with Directing a General Education Program at a Large Comprehensive University and How to Address these Issues

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Challenges and Opportunities

- Notion Gen Ed is a Waste of Time and Money
  Making Gen Ed Relevant to 21st Century Students
- Student Success, Retention, and Progression
  Engaging Students and Removing Barriers
- Competing Priorities
  Negotiating Competing Priorities by Building Collaborative Relationships
- Assessment Fatigue
  Using Assessment to Inform Teaching and Learning
Making Gen Ed More Relevant to 21st Century Student

Reviewing Gen Ed Learning Outcomes

• What can we do in our classrooms to better prepare students for 21st Century citizenship?
  Skills
  Knowledge
  Competencies
Making Gen Ed Relevant to 21st Century Students

Engaging Students through High Impact Practices

- Undergraduate Research
- Innovative and Experiential Learning
- Civic and Community Engagement
- Active Learning Teaching Style and Classrooms
- Learning Communities
- First Year Experiences
Service Learning

Clothesline Project

Valdosta State University
Service Learning

Handprint Project

Valdosta State University
Community Engagement

Migrant Farm Workers Clinic
Lake Park, Georgia
Civic Engagement
School of Americas Vigil
Columbus, Georgia
Active Learning Classroom

Tallahassee Community College

Phone Charging Station
Making Gen Ed More Relevant to 21st Century Student

Providing Support and Resources to Gen Ed Faculty

• Professional Development and Training
  Ongoing Training Workshops

• Incentives
  Attract Faculty
  Develop and Implement Best Innovative Practices
Making Gen Ed More Relevant to 21st Century Student

Marketing Gen Ed

- Collaborative Working Relationships Across Campus

- Marketing Gen Ed Program
  - Purpose, Benefits, Value
  - Students, Parents, Faculty, Administration, Community, Other Stakeholders
  - Presence on Campus (student driven; student testimonials)
  - Gen Ed Webpage
  - Social Media
Engaging Students and Removing Barriers to Promote Student Success, Retention, Progression

- Engaging Students as Active Participants in Gen Ed Learning Process
  Students more thoughtful and intentional about Gen Ed Courses
  Learning by Doing

- Adopting Initiatives to Remove Barriers
  Open Educational Resources (University of Georgia)
  Identifying and Referring for Interventions (Early)
Negotiating Competing Priorities

- Building a Collaborative Team Approach
- Working Toward Common Goal—What’s Best for The Student
  College and Faculty Ownership
- Student Centered, Fair, Equitable
Using Assessment to Inform Teaching and Learning

- Making Assessment Applicable
  - Faculty Ownership
  - Professional Development
    - Understanding
    - Competence
    - Confidence