now GETsmart
GE Innovation Institute (May 11-15, 2015)

Participants
- Melanie Jenkins
- Joseph Papenfuss
- Gregory Wright
- Adam Larsen
- LaFaun Barnhurst
- Richard Squire
- Heidi Johnson
- Cindy Alder
- Susan Larsen
- David Allred
- Bradford Young
- Beckie Hermansen
- Steve Hood
Problems with Current GE Model

- Outdated Cafeteria Model
- Students dislike GE
- Doesn’t promote integrative thinking; knowledge is compartmentalized
- Other institutions in the state are well on their way to GE redesign
- Not meeting all GE Outcomes, which are state mandated
  [https://www.snow.edu/academics/ge/index.html](https://www.snow.edu/academics/ge/index.html)
- Doesn’t address scholarship on GE design principles
- Little use of high impact teaching practices
Charge

- Define what it means to be generally educated
- Examine GE design philosophies
- Evaluate GE models currently in use at institutions across the nation
- Design three Snow GE models
- Examine assessment theory
- Design assessment strategies for GE models
- Develop a single GE model and assessment plan to present to the faculty
What should a generally educated person be able to do/feel?

- Communicate: oral, written, visual
- Team work
- Understand/appreciate multiple perspectives
- Problem solve—find satisfaction in working hard
- Think ethically, creatively, critically, analytically
- Generate (change) opinions
- Old—New (use old information to look at new problems)
- Feel passion about lifelong learning
- Be comfortable with the world
**Parameters** (things we cannot change)

- Core: E1, E2, AI, QL, 5 knowledge areas
- 31-36 GE credits
- Transfer—both in and out
- 2-year role
- Under-prepared students (3 year reality)
- Two campuses
- Open enrollment
- Location
Things We Do Well Right Now (things we do not want to change)

- Small Class Size
- High Touch Learning Environment
- Full-time Faculty Teaching General Education Courses
- Successful Major Preparation
- Quality/Rigor
- High Success Rate (grades, transfer, completion)
- Retention (unless we can improve)
- Solid Reputation with USHE institutions
- Champion the Unprepared
Things We Could Improve with New GE Design

- Enhance student learning
- Career Preparedness
- Placement
- Incorporation of more high impact practices
- Attitude that GE is nothing more than a repeat of high school
- Eliminate checkoff list mentality
- Outcomes-based approach campus wide
- Greater agency and intentionality
- Connections/Integration

- Innovation
- Engagement of both students and faculty
- Redefine student expectations (raise the bar)
- More concern for “learning”
- Assessment
- De-silo campus community
- Rethink workload
- Learning outside the classroom
- Flexibility
GE Models

1) Cafeteria/Chinese Menu Model

2) Hybrid Models
   - Themes/Pathways
   - First Year Experience
   - Cohorts/Learning Communities
   - Corner and Capstone Experiences
   - Retain elements of Cafeteria Model but move toward Integrative Model
   - Innovative packaging

3) Fully Integrative Model
SUU Good, Better, Best Model

- **Good**: Cafeteria Model
- **Better**: Paired Courses/Pathways
- **Best**: Complete Package (fully integrated)
  - Theme: Freedom
  - 8 faculty members/50 students
  - 16 credits per semester
  - No discrete credit
  - No students with credit; no students not fully prepared
  - Advertised as faster, cheaper approach to GE
  - Perpetuates get it out of the way thinking???
  - Can’t transfer in or out
We Can Do Better
- **Keystone**: Integrated GE or major courses (paired connections)
- **Core**: State requirements for all students
- **Pathways**: Knowledge areas integrated for a **Self-Directed** Path or a **Major** Path
- **Cornerstone**: Freshman Seminar – All students (Foundations I & II)
Cornerstone: Foundations I & II
Outcomes 2, 3, 6, 7
- Integration – complex problem solving
- Standard reading list (from all divisions)
- Wicked question/Big question
- Involve student life
- Writing intensive
- Reading intensive
- Critical, analytical, creative thinking
- Entrepreneurship
- Oral communication
- Pathway planning
- Human Relations
- Teamwork

6 credits

Core

- AI
  - 1, 2, 6
- QL
  - 1, 2, 4, 6
- E1 / E2
  - 1, 2, 6

12-13 credits

Pathways* (with Keystone)
1, 2, 5, 6

Self-Directed Path

- HU
- SS
- FA
- PS
- LS Lab

Keystone: 6 credits of paired courses (flexibility)

Major Path**

- HU
- SS
- FA
- PS
- LS Lab

- * Big question addressed in knowledge areas when appropriate
- ** 3-7 credit substitution allowed within discipline

AS: 34-36 Credits
AA: 34-35 Credits (substitute 4-5 credits of 1020 or higher in FL for 3 credits in pathway)
AAS: Foundation I & II count as human relations and communication

16 credits
Outcomes

- Introduced in the foundation courses
- Supported through the core and pathways
High Impact Practices

- First year experience
- Common intellectual experience
- Writing intensive
- Teamwork (collaborative assignment)
- Small class size
Flexibility

- For all students (AS, AA, AAS)
- IVC
- Substitutions built in
- Major friendly
Co-Curricular Collaboration

- 50% of student life activities will support either a GE outcome or tie to the Big Question
- Icons tied to GE outcomes will be used for activity or event promotion.
Assessment

Knowledge Areas

- Signature assignment evaluated using rubric for knowledge area outcomes
- Required reflection assignment

Foundation Courses

- Pre/Post assignment or signature assignment
- Required reflection assignment
Reflective Assessment

- How does this course tie to the “big question?”
- How does this course tie to other disciplines/knowledge areas?
Selling Points

- Promotes interdisciplinary communication
- Helps students take control of their GE
- Creates a paradigm shift for students (intentional learning)
- Prepares students for pathways
- Promotes integrative thinking
- Minimizes disruption of GE model
Potential Objections/Concerns

- Snow will once again be nothing more than a GE School.
- We cannot afford this.
- Who will teach all these foundation courses?
- Won’t this burden my majors?
- If departments lose GE slots, what will happen to employees in those departments?
- Everyone needs a piece of the GE pie to survive.
- If it’s not broken, why fix it?
- How will this impact the way I teach my classes?