

EL@NMC Newsletter

November 2021

Why Experiential Learning?

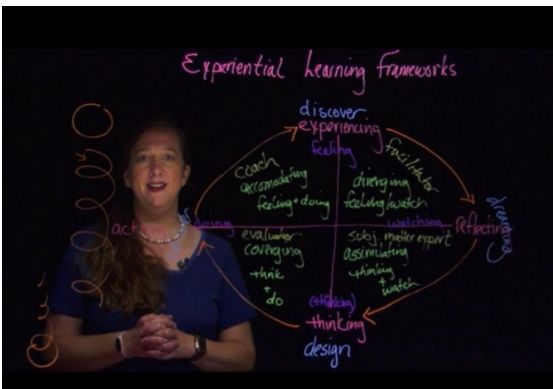
Experiential Learning (EL) engages learners through the intentional use of the learning cycle. With direct experiences (experiencing) and focused reflection (reflecting), learners connect to content and increase knowledge (thinking), in order to develop skills, clarify values, and develop the capacity to contribute to their communities (applying). EL is a win-win-win, benefiting learners, teachers, colleges and communities.



What is the ELLC?

The EL Learning Community (ELLC) is composed of colleagues who completed EL101 (or are actively working on it) or who have substantive experience in applying EL in courses. The ELLC is designed for more advanced practitioners and those who are seeking learning that can be obtained in a community of practice. The ELLC will be self-directed and implement the language and theory of Kolb-based experiential learning to our classes and campuses through study, sharing and advocacy. The ELLC may be a stepping stone for some to the ELI Fellowship. The LC will have its first meeting before the end of Fall semester.

EL Champion Spotlight: Cathy Warner, Adjunct Instructor (2021 EL Fellow)



“The EL Fellows program provided me with a rigorous and balanced approach to exploring experiential learning and finding praxis of theory and practice in my classroom. I finished the fellows program this summer, so this semester my students are participating in a semester-long project and proposal. This project is grounded in experiential learning: students explore and create solutions to needs on campus, at work, and in our community as they develop various written compositions standard in English Composition classes.”

Experiential Learning Institute Team

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Innovation Center Rm B103

Co-Curricular & Extra-Curricular

General Information and Committee

The co-curricular side of the Experiential Learning Institute has an approved definition, adopted by the Curriculum Committee at their September 17th meeting. The definition states:

"Co-curricular refers to activities, programs, and learning experiences that complement what students are learning at Northwestern Michigan College."

These experiences may include: honors contracts, student-faculty research experiences, study abroad & service learning activities (that are not tied to a specific class), [Phi Theta Kappa](#), professional clubs or organizations, athletics, career exploration, financial literacy programs, etc.

The Co-Curricular Committee will be conducting a comprehensive audit of what is already happening at NMC and helping to determine if learning outcomes have been established for these activities (necessary for HLC compliance). The committee is comprised of the following individuals:

Marcus Bennett, Amanda Clark, Jeremy Heinlein, Kari Kahler, Steve Rice, Kailey Rubinas, Nicco Pandolfi, Stephen Siciliano, Tracy Welch, Sally Smarsty, Erica Whiting, Kristy McDonald and Brandon Everest.

If you are interested in joining this committee, please reach out to the committee chair, Kari Kahler at kkahler@nmc.edu or by phone at 995-1228.

If you are involved in a co-curricular learning experience please let Kari know as we'd love to feature you and your students in an upcoming newsletter.

Blair Elementary School Mentor Project

Phi Theta Kappa and Rotaract students are teaming up to provide mentors to Blair Elementary School 5th graders this year. The program kicks off with Dr. Nick Nissley addressing the 3rd – 5th graders at a school assembly on Monday, November 22nd. Nick will share some of his childhood story and encourage students to think more hopefully about their future—re-scripting their story—and to start thinking about how NMC might be a part of their story. PTK has ordered t-shirts for all students (K – 5) that they will present to the students that day. If you have a student who might be interested in being a mentor, please reach out to Kari Kahler, the time commitment is 30 -45 minutes per week through the middle of June. Mentors can meet their students at the school or via google meets.



Global Studies

Study Abroad is Back!

One of the best opportunities ([Study Abroad](#)) for experiential learning offered through NMC is tentatively set for spring and summer 2022. Provided Covid risks are mitigated, International Services and Service Learning has opportunities in Europe for Culinary Arts (Spain), Nursing (England), and France (Humanities). In addition, should travel be safe to Latin America in June, students from the Freshwater Studies program will be participating in an educational exchange with the University of LaSalle in Bogota, Columbia. NMC students will journey to Columbia for 10 days, followed by a 10 day Colombian student visit to Traverse City. While here, the combined group will participate in partnerships with NMC, the Inland Seas Education Association, and the GT Band of Ottawa and Chippewa Indians in a program titled, **Bridging Waterways** which is funded via a US State Department grant drafted by Constanza Hazelwood and Jim Bensley. Faculty members leading study abroad programs in 2022 include:



Patty Cron-Huhta, Jim Morse, Nick Roster, Tamila Livengood, Jim Bensley, Coreene Kreiser, Constanza Hazelwood and Greg LaCross. Like one former student said after participating with an NMC experience in Brazil:

“The experience overall has served to benefit my patience, my perspective, and my humility.”

Tea-Tasting Open Discussion: November 17, 2021

Wednesday is the Tea-Tasting Open Discussion in Osterlin 100. This month's teas will be from South Africa and India. Join us for a casual, small group discussion on anything you like! We'll also throw in at least one question on a broad global topic. We are holding two sessions on Wednesday from 9:15-10am and 12:15-1:00pm. Feel free to join us for either one!

Fantastic International Experiential Opportunities for Faculty

Please consider joining us for the following opportunities offered this month.

1. **Global Solutions Conversations** sign up for Spring 2022. A wonderful FREE way to connect for six weeks with students and faculty in Jordan and Iraq. This virtual experience is similar to the Soliya exchange program that NMC has been involved in for the past six years. Check it out and please contact Jim Bensley (jbensley@nmc.edu) if you have questions.

2. **Study Abroad Association International Education Week free sessions!** NMC has a contract through May with SAA that provides intercultural content for your courses at no cost to you. Check out the opportunities to enhance your classes for spring 2022 through a wide variety of sessions offered during the week of Nov. 15-19 at www.studyabroadassociation.com.

Service Learning

New Rotaract Service Club at NMC!

NMC, in partnership with the Traverse City morning and noon Rotary Clubs, has a new [Rotaract](#) service club on campus. Students have been meeting since September and have two initiatives they will be pursuing throughout the 2021-22 academic year. The first is a partnership with an autistic school for youth in Uganda and the Planting Seeds organization in Guatemala. NMC students and area young professionals will be collecting children's books for pre-school through third grade and sending them overseas to help start libraries in marginalized areas. In addition, students hope to build sustainable connections with students and teachers to help foster the love of reading for years to come. The club has already reached out to the National Writers Series, NMC Library, Traverse Area District Library and various book stores to begin their collection. If you have any books in good condition that fit this age group, please drop them off at the Office for International Services and Service Learning in the Osterlin building.



The club is also partnering with Phi Theta Kappa in the Blair Elementary School Mentor Project mentioned in this newsletter. The NMC Rotaract Club is being advised by Jim Bensley, Kari Kahler, Lindsey Dickinson, Nick Roster and Melissa Sprenkle and representatives from the two Traverse City Rotary Clubs.

Internships & Employment Readiness

Contact Information

For information about [Internships](#), contact Amy Burns Bailey, Experiential Learning Program Coordinator, Business & Technical Division: aburns@nmc.edu

For information about [Employment Readiness](#), contact Lisa Baldyga, Employment Readiness Specialist: lbaldyga@nmc.edu

National Apprenticeship Week November 15-21, 2021

NMC Proclamation issued by Jason Slade, Vice President for Strategic Initiatives



Faculty Features

Walk for Health and Housing

Join the NMC community on **Wednesday, Nov. 17 at 5:30 p.m.** in a guided tour of downtown Traverse City from the perspective of people experiencing homelessness and the providers who serve them. The walk starts at NMC's Great Lakes Campus parking lot.

Ryan Hannon, Goodwill Industries, leads the way with stops along the downtown route, highlighting stories both tragic and triumphant. We will hear from service providers, police officers and elected officials about their concerns and hopes for the future.



This experience is associated to an interdisciplinary study of these issues by sociology, social work and communications students.

Food for Thought



Northwestern Michigan College business students will distribute 125 Thanksgiving meals to fellow students and community families on **Monday, Nov. 22.** This is the outcome of the eighth annual Food For Thought project, which teaches students how to professionally communicate through experiential learning. Each student wrote a professional letter to an organization or business, requesting a monetary or item donation to help meet a goal of feeding 125 families. (Picture from 2016)

Distributions will take place at two locations:

- 2-4 p.m. at NMC's Physical Education Building/Maple Parking Lot, 1701 E. Front St, Traverse City. This location is for the distribution of 75+ meals to NMC students.
- 5:30-7:30 p.m. at Bill Marsh, 1621 S Garfield Ave., Traverse City. This location is for the distribution of 50 meals to local families identified by Big Brothers Big Sisters of Northwestern Michigan.

Faculty: Share your EL Experiences and Activities

We are looking for faculty to share their Experiential Learning activities they are doing in their courses. Each month we will highlight different EL experiences happening here at NMC. To share your experiences, please contact the [Experiential Learning Institute](mailto:elinstitute@nmc.edu) at elinstitute@nmc.edu.

