

Riverside Community College District *Presents:* Winter Learning Community Institute

February 10 and 11, 2010



Emily Lardner

Guest Speaker

Emily Lardner is the Co-Director of the Washington Center for Improving the Quality of Undergraduate Education at Evergreen State College. Emily works with faculty members, staff, and administrators throughout the country to share good practices and carry out collaborative projects aimed at improving undergraduate teaching and student learning. Through workshops, institutes, campus visits, publications, and their website, the Washington Center promotes projects aimed at improving student achievement.



The RCCD Winter Learning Community Institute will focus on creating classroom conditions where learners from a wide range of backgrounds may participate in intellectually rigorous work in collaboration with others.

Day 1 - February 10, 2010 11:30 am - 4:00 pm

For faculty new to learning communities or faculty interested in developing a learning community

Topics covered will include:

- Overview of learning communities as an educational reform strategy – current national research and practice
- Learning community components that make a difference!
- Designing engaging curriculum:
 - Connecting to relevant issues
 - Building on students' prior knowledge and experience
 - Integrating across two or more courses
 - Reaching ahead to the next level
- What's in it for me? Emerging scholarship and opportunities for collaboration

Day 2 - February 11, 2010 8:00 am - 3:00 pm

For faculty already involved in learning communities and continuing Day 1 Participants

Topics covered will include:

- Characteristics of strong learning communities – How do we get famous?
- Creating SLO's for integrative teaching and learning
- Different approaches to the assessment of integrative assignments and the role of student reflection
- Learning communities as a site for culturally responsive pedagogy – a framework for faculty collaboration and scholarship
- "Horizontal" and "vertical" integration—integration within courses and to the next level, "reaching ahead"
- Designing a promising syllabus—why, how, and how about now?

"We need to create programs that bring us together structurally in some cases, intellectually and emotionally in others....Learning communities are one way that we may build the commonalities and connections so essential to our education and our society."

- *Learning Communities: Creating Connections Among Students, Faculty, and Disciplines*; Gabelnick, et al., 1990

Citrus State Park- Sunkist Room
9400 Dufferin Ave
Riverside, Ca. 92503

RSVP by February 5, 2010 to Janelle Wortman at (951) 222-8730 or janelle.wortman@rcc.edu