

Date: 11/12/2008 05:38 PM  
From: Patricia Iannuzzi  
To:  
RE: Invitation from Neal Smatresk

This past year as part of UNLV's Focus 50-100 strategic planning efforts, there have been multiple planning processes reviewing undergraduate education with a focus on general education, an articulation of desired learning objectives for all UNLV students, and consideration of the kinds of educational practices that contribute to retention and academic success. During this time we heard clearly from the UNLV community that we wanted to create a program that would "leapfrog" others and set a new standard for effectiveness.

It is now time to bring all interested parties together, to share your enthusiasm and expertise. You have been identified as one of the engaged stake holders in the conversations to date, and as a campus leader in developing educational programs. We need you to join us as we step back, take a breath, and take a moment to consider where we are, and where we want to go over the next 5 years.

Thus, I invite you along with the Campus Committee for Teaching and Learning, the Academic Success center, and the Presidential Education Taskforce to participate in two half-day events. Mark your calendars for Friday, November 21 and Monday, December 1 from 8:30 – 12 in the Tam Alumni Center. Please RSVP to [lee.scroggins@unlv.edu](mailto:lee.scroggins@unlv.edu) as soon as possible and let us know if you CANNOT attend as seating is limited.

The first event, on Friday, November 21, 2008, focuses on the broad issues of general education and is being called to **Define Universal Goals for the Undergraduate Curriculum.**

This first workshop, will follow up on the work started at the Fall 2007 General Education retreat, and continued this past year by the General Education Advisory Committee. The committee has been working for a year with input received at the 2007 retreat (see [http://generaled.unlv.edu/planning\\_retreat.html](http://generaled.unlv.edu/planning_retreat.html)). This is an opportunity to review what has been done, and to gather your thoughts on progress to date and next steps. The groups would specifically like to hear your thoughts on the following question:

***How can these learning outcomes be supported in your discipline – at the course level – in the curriculum – and by links to intentionally designed co-curricular experiences ?***

The workshop will include:

- a. a brief presentation on the status of the Gen Ed planning effort,

- b. A presentation and Q&A from another university about their general education reform,
- c. Group discussion of the proposed outcomes and curricular/co-curricular recommendations

The second workshop, on December 1, 2008, is called to give a high level overview of an integrated higher educational vision and **Attaining Universal Goals in the Undergraduate Curriculum, Monday, December 1, 2008**. It will focus on educational practices considered integral to student success. (e.g., first year experience, learning communities, undergraduate research)

- a. EVP&P Neal Smatresk will frame the workshop with a presentation about education planning that has occurred in the past 8 months.
- b. Terry Rhodes, Vice President for at the Association of American Colleges and Universities will present the underlying research from AAC&U's latest report by George Kuh, *High Impact Educational Practice: What they are, who has access to them, and why they matter?*
- c. Group discussion where you will be asked to consider the following two questions as we explore how to define these practices for UNLV

*How can we foster a campus environment to better support first year students and create a welcoming community?*

*What educational practices foster student success and how can we support faculty to engage in these practices?*

These events are by invitation-only so please RSVP.

Thank you for participating in this important planning process.