



The Fact Sheet

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What makes a College great?

On November 8, a group of twenty-four folks from across the NPCC campus will begin considering this question. By lunchtime on Saturday, Nov. 10, they will have some answers.

Modeled on the Great Teacher Workshops, the Great College Workshop will have many of the same elements, but with the emphasis on discovering the nature of the great college. Gordon will facilitate (he has seven years experience as the Director of the Arkansas Great Teacher Workshop). Those attending will be Sally, Maggie, Brad, Jim and Linda Castaldi, John Tucker, Diane Meredith, Dana Murphy, Susan Gaither, Tasha Harris, Lisa Hopper, Becky Linsky, Valerie Bond, Janetta Ritter, Pam Buenau, Jackie Holloway, Mary Kay Wurm, Janet Braley, Ann Bragg, and Kay Anthony. Kitty Conrad, Van Davis, and Thad Flenniken will attend the meetings but will not be staying the nights.

As the college places its AtD resources into getting buy-in and creating a vision for the AtD initiative on campus, it prepares the way for broad-based community buy-in through a cadre of empowered stakeholders who can 'talk the talk and walk the walk' of institutional change, based in a culture of data-driven decision-making. In short, when the tough realizations that must lead to the tough decisions become apparent, NPCC will have folks who understand the vision and can speak to those decisions. (More on tough realizations in a minute.)

This Workshop and another in February will move the college into Stages 1, 2, 3, 4, and 5 of "The Eight-Stage Process

of Creating Major Change" as noted in *Leading Change* (John Kotter, 21). These stages are:

1. Establishing a sense of urgency
2. Creating a guiding coalition
3. Developing a vision and strategy
4. Communicating the change vision
5. Empowering broad-based action

Beginning at 5:00 PM on Thursday and ending after lunch on Saturday, the sessions would include

- a brief orientation to the Workshop
- ice breakers for community building
- shared short papers on the college's successful work with students
- shared short papers on the challenges the college faces in its work with students
- further discussion and reflection based on themes that arise from the papers
- activities for discovering the nature of the great college and its vision for assisting students in being successful.

So, back to those tough realizations . . . some things will be uncovered through the workshops, some through our discussions with one another, but most of what will become clear will be identified through the collection of data. This week, Brad received the feedback on our IPEDS data, which he submits every year. This is the Integrated Postsecondary Education Data System. In the feedback, we're compared with other (31 in this case) two-year institutions with characteristics similar to our own. Ever wonder about how we stack up to other institutions?

Along with this Fact Sheet, I've attached the PDF file for the feedback report. See what you think. Have a look. You'll see that you can mine the data by accessing the websites included with the report. Enjoy! This is just the beginning.