



Elgin
Community
College

Bright Choice. Bright Future.

Using Learning Communities to Help Adult Education
Students Transition to College

**Forum for
Excellence
Fall 2019**

The Problem



Beginning ESL

Intermediate ESL

Advanced ESL



College Level Classes

Solutions?



Learning Communities

<https://www.gtcf.org/about/our-work/learning-communities-2/>

I▶BEST▶



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<https://www.tctc.edu/programs/transition-programs-resources/i-best/>

What is a learning community?



How were learning communities created?

- > Faculty collaboration
- > Administrative buy in

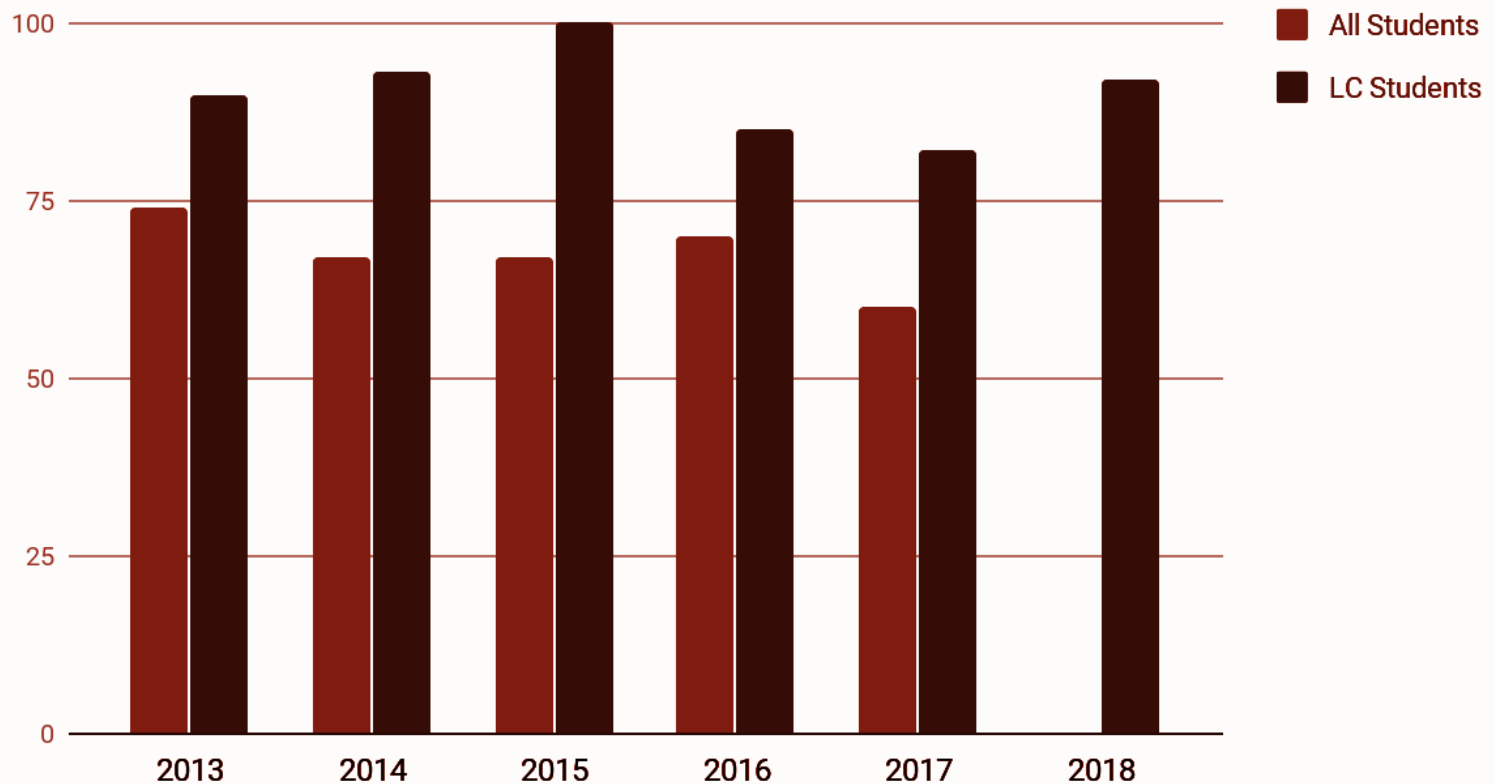


English 101/ESL level 10 learning community



Success by the numbers

Student Success English 101

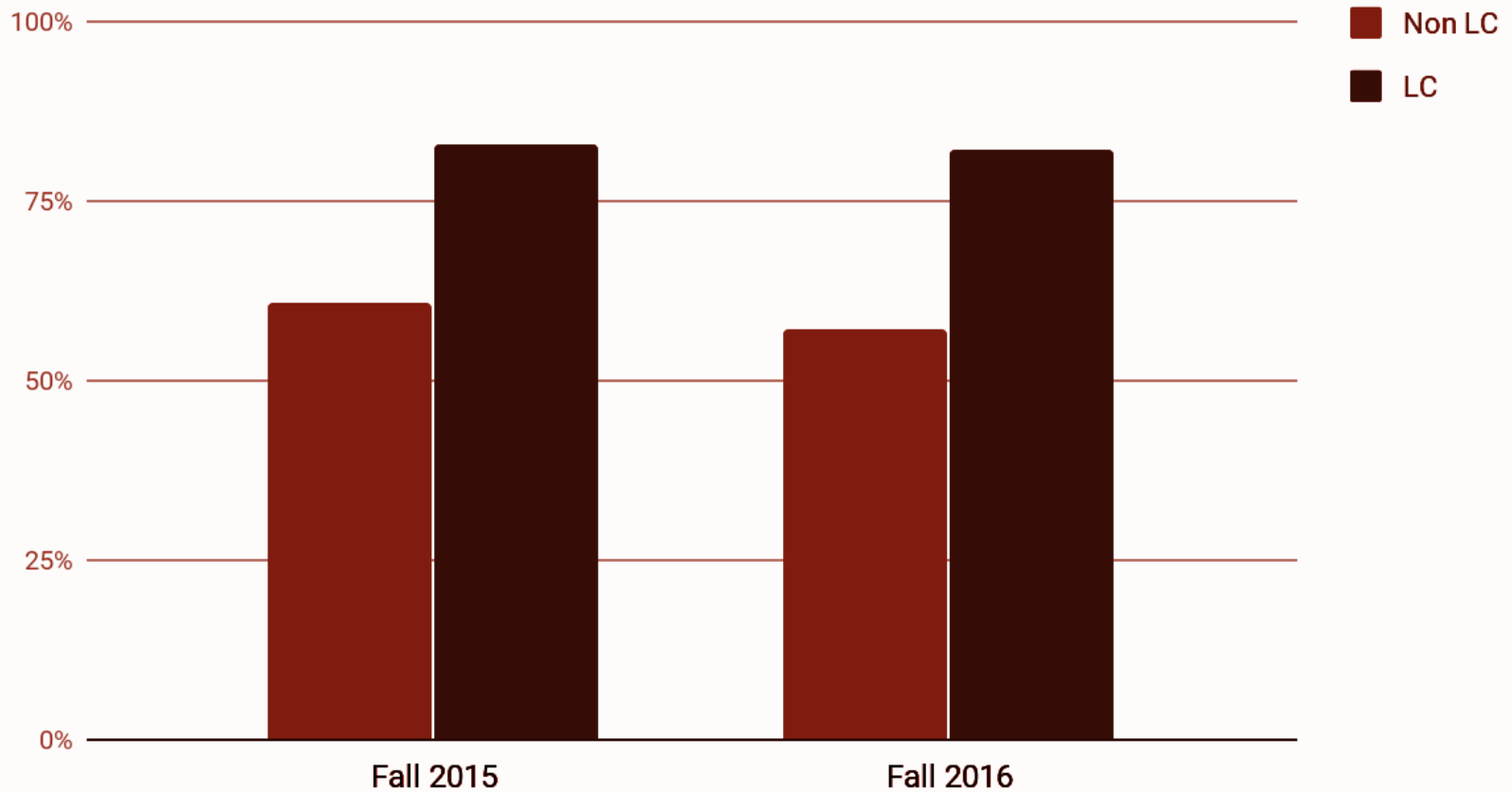


Business Communications/ESL level 7 learning community



Success by the numbers

Business 101



Fall 2019 - CMS (Speech)/ ESL 10 learning community



First steps– CMS101



Kiyoko M

Hard Worker.Goal-Oriented, Action-Focused.
ENFJ
Member of Client Committee

Kiyoko originally came from Japan and was an architect. She also volunteered extensively - often as a tutor or educator.

She is building English skills to help her reach her goal of becoming a successful real estate investor.

She sees the partnership as vital in helping her gain experiences that will help her achieve her goals.

Challenges

- > Finding faculty
- > Recruitment
- > Financial challenges for students
- > Enrollment
- > Coordination between departments
- > Systemic issues
- > Data collection issues



<https://www.humanresourcesonline.net/6-challenges-hr-will-face-2016/>

Proven student success...

Of the students who participated in an ESL Learning Community (through fall 2018),

- > 38 (31%) went on to take ENG-102 with a 95% success rate.
- > 82 (67%) went on to take additional college classes (not ESL).
- > 1302.5 credit hours were generated by these students.
- > 20 degrees and/or certificates have been completed.



<https://academics.umw.edu/academicser vices/student-success-resources/>

Next steps

- > Expand learning community programming
- > Accelerated Learning Program (ALP)
- > Apprenticeship/ pre-apprenticeship programming
- > Curricular revisions
- > Classroom presentations



https://vda.delaware.gov/wp-content/themes/dosgic_VDA_theme/img/steps-icon.png

Questions?



Student testimonials...

I have the desire to be better in all aspects of my life. I am in learning community because I want to change my thoughts, my bad habits, and my life. **I do not want a common life. I would like to do different things that help me not only to improve professionally but as person. I want to study a career, work hard, and succeed.** I want to improve my English skill, but most important for me is to learn how to communicate with others.

BUS LC - Fa18

Student testimonials...

I think that it is important for people like us that we do not have experience in a high school classroom or college classroom. It takes away our fear to face a regular class.

BUS101 LC - Fa16

Student testimonials...

At this point, I realize that I have improved my writing in many ways. Now I can write longer, structured, and detailed papers, so those papers are more interesting. In addition, **I have improved my own life by overcoming the fear of taking classes at the university. I know I have a long way to achieve my goal, but I am taking small steps one at a time. I am very proud of myself for not giving up and for putting effort to improve my writing.**

Rosa (English 101/ESL 10)

Student testimonials...

Every time we start a new journey or a new job, buy a new house or car, we worry too much because it is so uncertain how things will go. But with this learning experience, I just realized that **nothing is impossible or too hard for you if you try it; the only person that backs you off and puts limits on you is your own self.** I think that from now on I will take the quote from the hero's journey and make it my own motivational daily phrase because it is so true what Joseph Campbell wrote in *The Hero of a Thousand Faces* that says that **"The cave you fear to enter holds the treasure you seek."** I'm so thankful and glad that I listened to my relative's advice and took the decision to enroll in this class because **I can tell that I'm not only building a second language skill, but I'm building a new me that is not fearful anymore to seek her own treasure.**

Estela (English 101/ESL 10)