

Contact: Diana Gonzalez

**FACULTY PRESENTATION AT IOWA STATE UNIVERSITY:
"IOWA STATE UNIVERSITY LEARNING COMMUNITIES"**

Action Requested: Receive the presentation.

Executive Summary: One of the best examples of a Student Affairs/Academic Affairs partnership at Iowa State University is its Learning Communities program. Dr. Doug Gruenewald, Co-Director of ISU Learning Communities, will provide an overview of learning communities and their impact on students and student success at ISU. He will provide a definition of what constitutes a learning community, a summary of common features of learning communities, information about the development and dramatic growth of learning communities during the past few years, and evidence of the contributions of learning communities to enhance learning, retention, and graduation. In addition, he will discuss aspects of the peer mentor program and the scholarly work that has evolved from learning communities. A student who is a learning community peer mentor will also share his perspective of learning communities.

Dr. Gruenewald has held numerous positions at ISU since 1985. He has worked with the ISU Learning Communities program since 1995 and has been the Co-Director since 1998. Dr. Gruenewald earned his Ph.D. in Higher Education Administration at ISU. He has served as Adjunct Assistant Professor in the Department of Educational Leadership and Policy Studies for the past 10 years. He has written, consulted, and made numerous presentations on learning communities. He has received the P & S Excellence Award and the Regents Staff Award.