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Contributors

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J. David Arnold is vice president for academic and student affairs at Missouri Western State College in St. Joseph, Missouri. Previously he was provost at St. John Fisher College, a dean at Clarion University, and a faculty member at St. Lawrence University. At his present and former institutions, he has provided leadership on integrating academic and student affairs as part of the development of new learning community programs for first-year students. Both St. Lawrence and Fisher's first-year programs were semi-finalists in the Policy Center on the First Year of College's national study to identify "Institutions of Excellence in the First College Year." Arnold is a fellow with the National Learning Communities Project.

Grant H. Cornwell is professor of philosophy, vice president of the university, and dean of Academic Affairs at St. Lawrence University. He received his Ph.D. in philosophy from the University of Chicago in 1989. His teaching at St. Lawrence, while always informed by philosophy, has been deeply invested in creating and fostering interdisciplinary and intercultural programs. Cornwell served for four years as dean of the first-year program at St. Lawrence, a team-taught, interdisciplinary, living/learning program of general education. He has been active on the boards of Caribbean and Latin American Studies and the Global Studies Department at St. Lawrence. His scholarship reflects the same passion for crossing disciplinary and cultural boundaries. In addition to articles exploring epistemological issues within post-colonial studies, multiculturalism, and critical pedagogy, in 1997 he published, with Richard Guarasci, *Democratic Education in an Age of Difference* (Jossey-Bass). With Eve Stoddard, Cornwell teaches courses on intercultural issues: "Cultural Encounters," seminars on race and ethnicity for seniors, and on global citizenship for students returning from study abroad programs, and a living-learning course called "Introduction to Intercultural Studies" for first-year students.

Richard Guarasci is president at Wagner College. Prior to his presidency, Guarasci was provost and vice president for academic affairs and professor of political science, teaching in the areas of democracy, citizenship, and American diversity. At Wagner, Guarasci founded "The Wagner Plan for the Practical Liberal Arts," the new four-year curriculum for all undergraduates that draws together a substantive liberal arts core into a series of learning communities. Each community cluster includes semester-long, community-based and service-learning courses emphasizing the integration of ideas and experiences with the civic arts of democratic culture. Prior to coming to Wagner in 1996, he was dean at Hobart William Smith College and St. Lawrence University; at both institutions, he led path-breaking work in the areas of democracy, citizenship, and American diversity. He is the lead author, with Grant Cornwell, of *Democratic Education in the Age of Difference: Redefining Citizenship in Higher Education*, (Jossey-Bass, 1997).

Roberta S. Matthews is provost and vice president for academic affairs at Brooklyn College (CUNY). She also served as vice president for academic affairs at Marymount College (Tarrytown), and in a number of administrative positions at LaGuardia Community College (CUNY), including interim president. She created the first learning community at LaGuardia in the 1970s and oversaw the tremendous growth of this approach at the college. Long active in the learning community movement, Matthews has offered workshops on learning communities and active learning at colleges and universities all over the country. She has written a number of articles about student learning, and co-authored *Learning Communities: Creating Connections Among Students, Faculty, and Disciplines* (Jossey-Bass, 1990).

Susan Mooney is associate professor of history and philosophy of science (HPS) and the dean of general education at Stonehill College. She has served as chair of the HPS program, and co-founded and directs the environmental studies program at Stonehill as well. Teaching for seventeen years in Stonehill's "old" general education program and working with faculty colleagues in designing the Cornerstone Program of General Education led Mooney to accept an administrative role in implementing the new program. With advanced degrees in both biology and philosophy, and scholarly work that incorporates both, Mooney seems well-suited to work with colleagues across the disciplines to design, implement, and assess a program of general education.

Jim Poff did his undergraduate and master's degree work at Miami University before going on to study for his Ph.D. at Utah State University. He has been on the faculty of St. John's University in Collegeville, Minnesota, since 1976. Over the years he has taught a wide variety of field-oriented biology courses, which helped lead ultimately to the development of the "Biology of the Southeast" Learning Community.

Frankie Shackelford is professor of Norwegian and associate dean for teaching and learning enhancement at Augsburg College in Minneapolis. For four years, she has served as director of the Center for Professional Development, designing teaching workshops and retreats, grant-writing, and spearheading an alliance between faculty and staff through mentoring teams. She was also a participant in a FIPSE project to explore the use of teaching portfolios in the faculty review process. With help from the Kettering Foundation, CIC, and the Minnesota Campus Compact, Shackelford has been promoting civic engagement in the form of campus-community partnerships for service-learning, and she has been a leader in designing, assessing, and redesigning the first-year seminars. Shackelford is a fellow with the National Learning Communities Project.

Barbara Leigh Smith is the former provost and vice president for academic affairs at The Evergreen State College. She is currently co-director, with Jean MacGregor, of the National Learning Communities Project, sponsored in part by the Pew Charitable Trusts. She served as dean at Evergreen from 1978 to 1994. Smith is the founding director of The Washington Center for Improving the Quality of Undergraduate Education at Evergreen, which has been a leader in disseminating the idea of learning communities. Smith has written extensively on educational reform, collaborative learning, and learning communities including: with Jean MacGregor, “What is Collaborative Learning?” in the *Collaborative Learning Sourcebook*, (National Center on Postsecondary Teaching, Learning and Assessment, 1990); with Jean MacGregor, Roberta Matthews, and Faith Gabelnick, *Learning Communities: Creating Connections Among Students, Faculty and Disciplines*, (Jossey-Bass, 1990); “Taking Structure Seriously,” *Liberal Education* (1991); “Creating Learning Communities,” *Liberal Education* (1993); with R. Jones, *Against the Current: Reform and Experimentation in Higher Education* (1984); with John McCann, *Reinventing Ourselves* (Anker Press, 2001); “The Challenges of Learning Communities as a Growing National Movement,” *Peer Review* (2001); and “Learning Communities and Liberal Education,” *Academe*, (2003). Her newest book on Learning Communities should be available in 2004.

Karen Spear is professor of English *emerita* at Fort Lewis College and a past president of the Association of General and Liberal Studies. She has been active in developing learning communities since the early 1980s at the University of Utah and subsequently during her years as dean of Arts and Sciences at Fort Lewis. She has also written and consulted extensively on liberal education, curriculum renewal, and collaborative, peer-based approaches to teaching writing, including *Sharing Writing* (Heinemann/Boynton Cook 1988). Spear currently works in the corporate world as a consultant, researcher, and executive coach with particular interests in the nature and stages of professional development, diversity, and women and work. She is the co-author, with Terry Bacon, of *Adaptive Coaching: The Art and Practice of a Client-Centered Approach to Performance Improvement* (forthcoming from Davies-Black Publishing). Spear is a fellow with the National Learning Communities Project.

Eve Walsh Stoddard has a Ph.D. in English from UCLA and an A.B. from Mount Holyoke College. Stoddard directed the Cultural Encounters project, first as a faculty development grant and then as a program. She served as director of the Center for International and Intercultural Studies at St. Lawrence for five years before being appointed chair of the new global studies department. Her research has been in intersections between philosophy and literature during the late eighteenth century, feminism, post-colonial, and cultural studies, lately focusing on issues of race and culture in the English-speaking Caribbean. With Grant Cornwell, Stoddard has published an article on creolization and hybridity in the *European Journal of Cultural Studies*, presented “Globalizing Knowledge” for AAC&U, and authored a book, *Global Multiculturalism: Comparative Studies in Race, Ethnicity, and Nation* (Rowman and Littlefield). Stoddard and Cornwell are currently writing a book on the ruins of sugar plantations in the Caribbean as sites that evoke contestations over national memory, identity, and colonial nostalgia.