Toward a Numerate Culture: A Quantitative Literacy Project

Scott Dillery Lindsey Wilson College JMM 2009

Events to Present

- Students failing.
- Data Models implemented.
- Quantitative Literacy workshop and grant.
- Numeracy Teaching Circle at LWC.

Students Failing

- 83% first generation.
- Quick to give up.
- Poor preparation with multiple deficiencies.
- Defiant toward Algebra.

Data Models Implemented

- Analyze data graphically.
- Use recurrence relations.
- Implement spreadsheets.
- Include projects.
- Use open source text.

Quantitative Literacy Workshop

- May 2008.
- Emory & Henry campus.
- ACA schools invited.
- Funding.
 - Mellon Foundation
 - Project Kaleidescope

Quantitative Literacy Grant

- Mini-grants.
 - o Bio, Engl, Math, Psych
 - Continue in spring
- Persuasive speeches.
- Common reading.
 - o Money Ball
 - o Freakonomics

Numeracy Teaching Circle

- 10 faculty.
- 8 disciplines.
- Meet weekly.
- Administer mini-grants.
- Lead common reading.

Observations

- Multidisciplinary helps buy in.
- Common reading is good.
- Data Models "works".
- Inadequate student support.
- Less than expected faculty participation.
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In the Future

- QL workshop number two.
- Academic support coordination.
- Faculty workshops.
- Functions course.
- Team taught courses.

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