

NOTE FROM ALAN SICKBERT

March 2012
For Current and Prospective Parents



HIGH IMPACT PRACTICES

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In a recent survey among employers done by the Association of American Colleges and Universities, employers indicated they want their employees to use a broader set of skills and have higher levels of learning and knowledge than in the past. They need different employees to meet the increasingly complex demands they will face in the workplace. As a result, the shift in hiring will be toward four-year College graduates.

Employers endorse learning outcomes for college graduates that are developed through a blend of liberal and applied learning. They also endorse several emerging educational practices that colleges are implementing to ensure students graduate with the knowledge and skills needed to succeed after graduation.

The Association of American Colleges and Universities, of which Hamline University is a member, has promoted a program to meet the changing needs of today's employers. LEAP "Liberal Education and America's Promise," emphasizes ten High Impact educational practices that give our students the knowledge and skills desired by today's employers, and make them desirable for today's difficult market.

I have attended the last two Association of American Colleges and Universities National Conferences and have become very interested in how these "High Impact educational practices" help Hamline students become the most sought after students in the job market today and in the future. The wonderful part of my new awareness of these high impact practices is that Hamline has nine of the ten practices in place. The challenge for you as a parent is to become familiar with these practices and encourage your student to engage in these High Impact practices.

Let me share with you these High Impact practices:

- 1. First Year Seminars and Experiences These seminars are a part of every new students experience at Hamline. Students need to challenge themselves to excel in the extra experiences available as part of the first-year seminar, which leads to more connections to peers and co-curricular activities.
- 2. Learning Communities The creation of Learning Communities are part of the university's Strategic Plan and currently are under development.
- 3. Writing Intensive Classes Each semester Hamline students must take at least one writing intensive course as part of the Hamline Plan.
- 4. Common Intellectual Experiences The "Hamline Plan" follows the idea of integrative studies that combine broad themes of society, global interdependence using both curricular and co-curricular options for students.
- 5. Collaborative Assignments and Projects Collaborative learning combines two key goals: learning to work and solve problems in the company of others and sharpening one's understanding by listening seriously to the insights of others, especially those with different backgrounds and life experiences. Students should seek class experiences which emphasize group projects and collaborative assignments.
- 6. Undergraduate Research Research opportunities are available to undergraduates all year with special opportunities in the summer. More Hamline students present at the National Conference for Undergraduate Research than the University of Minnesota and most of our peer private institutions.
- 7. Diversity / Global Learning Hamline is well known for opportunities to engage in diversity programs, related learning opportunities and in the Study Abroad opportunities. These opportunities are voluntary, so students need to seek these learning opportunities to engage in this learning.
- 8. Service Learning, Community Based Learning Academic classes using service learning components and volunteer opportunities organized by the Wesley Center focused on service learning in the community are available to students. Many of these opportunities are part of the work study program.
- 9. Internships In the School of Business, internships are becoming required. Students need to access the Career Development Center for internship opportunities and link to NACElink (www.hamline.edu/cdc), the new on-line website linking students to alumni and companies offering internships.
- 10. Capstone Courses and Projects Business, English, and some Science majors are utilizing new capstone experiences to connect the course with alumni, possible jobs and to understand how their liberal education experience better prepares them for the world of work. The Career Development Center offers the Bridges Program, Practice

Interviews and opportunities for job fairs which help students link their educational experience to job opportunities.

As you can see, opportunities to be at the forefront of new jobs and graduate school entrance are alive and well at Hamline University. The key is to take advantage of these high impact learning opportunities. Involvement in High Impact Experiences enhances the student's college experience and is proven to increase student success. As parents, I hope you can influence your student to take advantage of these learning opportunities to make themselves marketable in today's competitive world of work. By being involved in High Impact Experiences they will not only be more successful at Hamline; but also more marketable in today's competitive world of work.

UPCOMING EVENTS ON CAMPUS

SPRING SEMESTER

Senior Day March 9
Spring Break March 19 – March 23
Classes Resume March 26,
Mid-term grades due (noon) March 27
Good Friday (no classes) April 6
Fall registration opens April 16
Honors Day (classes prior to 6:00 pm cancelled) May 3
Classes end May 11
Final exams begin May 14
Final exams end Mary 17
Commencement May 19
Final grades due – Non graduates (noon) May 24

DID YOU KNOW...

Link for Information regarding Hamline's 2012 Commencement:

http://www.hamline.edu/events/commencement/