

ENGAGEMENT=SUCCESS=LEARNING



**Impact of Student Space on
Student Engagement and
Learning**

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Quote by John Dewey, 1916

“We never educate directly, but indirectly by means of the environment. Whether we permit chance environments to do the work, or whether we design environments for the purpose makes a great difference.”

What is Student Engagement?

- The degree of attention, curiosity, interest, optimism, and passion that students show when they are learning or being taught, which extends to the level of motivation they have to learn and progress in their education

Importance of Non-Academic Spaces & The Community College Experience

- As an entity, the physical campus conveys intended and unintended messages to students, employees and visitors
- Informal space promoting collegiate life has the most impact
- There is a need for adequate places that encourage spontaneous, informal interactions among students

Fostering An Engaging Environment

- Institutions play a critical role in **student engagement** by **creating environments**, opportunities and conditions facilitating or inhibiting student success

- The quality and quantity of student engagement in both the academic and **cocurricular** aspects of a college environment, enhance learning and skill development
- A relationship exists between student learning and student involvement and that campus community, including **physical design**, has an **impact on student learning, academic persistence and student retention**

Feeling a Sense of Community

- Schlossberg's marginality and mattering research (1989) states that, students who engage in the campus community experience as a sense of mattering, that is they feel included and cared for by others in the community
- Students who feel marginalized are unlikely to participate fully in college life

Library Space and Engagement

Research by Scott Bennett (2005, 2006, 2009) on function of libraries states:

- Support a distinction between studying and socializing that does not deny the social dimension of study
- Favor learning functions in the space's mix of academic and social functions
- Provide choices of place ranging from personal seclusion to group study
- Foster a sense of community among students



Harvard University Student Social Space Renovations

“The lecture hall is not the only place where students encounter new ideas at Harvard,” she said... “By making campus social spaces more inviting, we make it easier for students to connect with—and learn from—one another.”

Harvard Gazette, 2011: Quote by University Dean Evelyn Hammonds

Impact of Student Space

- Educationally effective colleges use every opportunity, through new construction, **space renovation**, landscape planning, **campus extension** and interior design to create spaces and settings where learning and teaching can flourish and which can reflect their commitment to student engagement
- Many colleges subscribe to this philosophy here in the community college system

“...Student Success is Our Goal”

- Student engagement is impacted by student space ultimately leading to student success
- Students learning from one another outside of the classroom in an environment that best suits them are the keys to success
- College unions can be places for individual students to feel part of a larger community of learners
- If learning is social, and a sense of community is vital to the learning process, then students need to feel part of the community to take full advantage of all possible learning experiences

Resources

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Questions?/ Comments?