**Community Learning for Athletic Scholars Success (CLASS)**

**FALL 2012**

**Understanding Learning Communities Commitment Statement**

* MSJC learning communities will provide students with the pathways necessary to successfully transition from non-transfer courses to transfer courses through an integrative approach.
* The mission of Community Learning for Athletic Scholars Success (CLASS) is to help student athletes successfully complete their college English requirements within two years while completing additional general education requirements by developing a sense of community, by encouraging academic collaboration, and by helping them to develop skills that promote lifelong learning.
* **Why learning communities?**
	+ Student retention
	+ Academic achievement
	+ Student involvement
	+ Motivation
	+ Improves time to degree completion
	+ Enhances intellectual and personal development
	+ Responsible for their own learning
	+ Develops their emotional intelligence
* **What will be gained?**
	+ Students will demonstrate integrated knowledge and modes of thinking from two or more disciplines or fields of study
	+ Students will work in a collaborative and active environment as a valued member of a team to develop a sense of community
	+ Students will integrate into college culture
* **3 Types of Learning Communities**

**Student cohorts/Integrative Seminar**

* + Learning communities can be structured as programs in which a small cohort of students enrolls in larger classes that faculty do not coordinate. In this instance, intellectual connections and community-building often take place in an additional integrative seminar.

**Linked Courses/Course Clusters**

* + Learning communities may involve two or more classes linked thematically or by content which a cohort of students take together. In this instance, the faculty do plan the program collaboratively.

**Coordinated Study**

* + Learning communities may involve coursework that faculty members team teach. The course work is embedded in an integrated program of study.
* **How student services will support Learning Communities?**
	+ Counselors and student services staff will support faculty by:
		- Teaching Guidance classes in a learning community
		- Provide in class advising/ workshops in learning community classrooms
		- Follow-up with students for mandatory counseling appointments to develop and educational plan
		- Field Trips to 4 year universities
* **Learning Community Program Rules:**
	+ All learning community classes are linked.
	+ If you drop one or more learning community course, you will be dropped from ALL the other learning community courses.
	+ This also applies to instructor drops.
	+ What does this mean?
	+ You need to be attending, participating and studying for ALL of your classes.
* **Expectations of Learning Community:**
	+ You are required to collaborate with your classmates during class discussions and assignments (group work). Is this program right for you?
	+ You are required to attend and participate in EVERY LC class.
	+ You are required to have your OWN copy of the textbooks for your courses or have copies of the assigned Chapters for EVERY class!
	+ We work with you, NOT for you.
	+ We believe in “rigor”… we do not enable, we provide support.

**I have read and understand the information above. By signing below I agree to abide by the program rules and expectations of the Learning Community program (CLASS). I understand that if I do not pass ENGL 062 that I will not be able to move onto ENGL 098.**

Student Name (print): \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

Student Signature (Signature): \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_