

Allegany College of Maryland's Rural Educator Academy Team Presents:

Students' Experience with ACM's Technology

An Investigation of Students' Experience
with ACM's Technology



OUR JOURNEY OUR "WHY", GOALS, CHALLENGES, WINS & PROGRESS

AN EXPLORATION OF STUDENTS' EXPERIENCE

Understanding the impact of technology on the student experience at Allegany College of Maryland (ACM) is essential for promoting success and equity among our student body.

By investigating how students are utilizing digital resources and classroom technology, we can identify areas for improvement and ensure that all students have access to the necessary tools to succeed. This approach can lead to better outcomes and a more inclusive learning environment for all.

ACM is excited to continue this work in collaboration with CCA and LAUNCH Student Success to ensure that technology is used to its fullest potential for the benefit of our students.

SHARED LEARNING & ADDRESSING INEQUITIES

During Professional Development Day on May 10, 2023, the ACM REA Team presented valuable insights to our colleagues. The team successfully created a new understanding of how students experience technology at ACM and made the necessary space to collaboratively establish equitable intervention frameworks to address technology issues in the future. Thanks to these efforts, we now better understand technology's impact on our students and how to ensure equity in our approach.

PROJECT GOALS



Deepen Understanding
of Student Experience



Develop & Administer Student
Survey & Focus Group Frameworks



Apply Learning by Identifying
& Addressing Equity Issues



Embed Growth Mindset
within Technology Interventions



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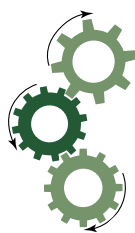
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Capstone Project Process

1. Complete the Rural Educator Academy In-person Orientation
2. Complete the Rural Educator Academy Online Curriculum Modules
3. Brainstorm and Select a Capstone Project Topic
4. Survey Students and Staff About Experiences with Technology at ACM
5. Meet with a Focus Group to further explore survey questions
6. Present Survey & Focus Group Findings at ACM Professional Development Day

REA Core Competencies Applied

- Collaborate with staff and faculty to outreach to marginalized groups in the local community.
- Identify and outline the many barriers preventing rural student success, reframe this experience through the lens of equity, and create a plan that centers the rural Appalachian experience throughout the campus student support systems.
- Structure a process that validates the rural Appalachian student experience, increasing the awareness and utilization of student support services in a timely fashion to increase rural Appalachian student success.



Challenges Along the Way

Initially, our team faced difficulty selecting a topic due to the abundance of great ideas. However, we eventually narrowed our focus to the challenges students encounter with technology. To gather relevant data, we surveyed our students. This process involved numerous revisions to frame the right questions clearly and concisely. Encouraging students to participate in the survey also posed a challenge.

As we progressed, we generated several brilliant ideas but faced the dilemma of how to implement them. This proved to be another challenge that required careful consideration and planning. Despite these obstacles, our team persevered and ultimately succeeded in creating a comprehensive report on the challenges faced by students with technology.

Wins Along the Way & Lessons Learned

ACM's Capstone Project aimed at tackling student issues with technology has yielded impressive results. The project, which was initially met with uncertainty, has now made significant progress on several fronts.

To begin, a brainstorming session was held to identify potential topics that could help students overcome their technological difficulties. While some of these topics were eventually selected for the Capstone Project, progress was also made on other areas that were not part of the project. These included cooking workshops for athletes, access to emergency funds, and exploring car maintenance for students through the Auto Tech program.

During the discussions, it was recognized that the timing of the survey and focus group had a significant impact on the results. Had these activities been conducted in August instead of April, the findings would have been very different. As a result, conversations are currently underway to determine next steps.

Moving forward, the team remains committed to finding sustainable solutions to address student issues with technology. The situation will continue to be monitored, and new opportunities will be explored to help students overcome their challenges. The goal is to ensure that every student has access to the resources they need to thrive and succeed.