

Academy for College Excellence

Five-Day Experiential Learning Institute

The ACE Five-Day Experiential Learning Institute is a transformative professional development experience designed for community college faculty, staff and administrators. The dynamic exercises presented during the FELI draw on core ACE curriculum around communication, working styles and leadership techniques. Activities include but are not limited to large group discussion, small group sharing and presentations, movement activities, role-playing and reflection. Because of the experiential nature of the program, participants stay fully engaged throughout the day, allowing for learning and growth in unexpected ways. ACE structures the activities to create a community of learners, and asks that all attendees be prepared to participate fully as active learners and to attend each day in full as rapport is built within the group as the days unfold. Each FELI group is capped at 25 participants to ensure time for each participant to be heard.

The FELI challenges participants in many ways:

- You will be asked to closely examine reality versus your perceptions in the areas of working styles, listening abilities and communications techniques.
- You will experience the difference between outside-in learning and inside-out learning.
- You will be asked to practice authentic communication and understand the value of self-awareness and self-disclosure as vehicles for the transformation of education.

Topics Covered in the FELI Include:

- Laws of communication
- Listening techniques
- Identifying the working and communication styles of self and others
- Learning how to construct and participate in a cohesive work team
- Reflection techniques

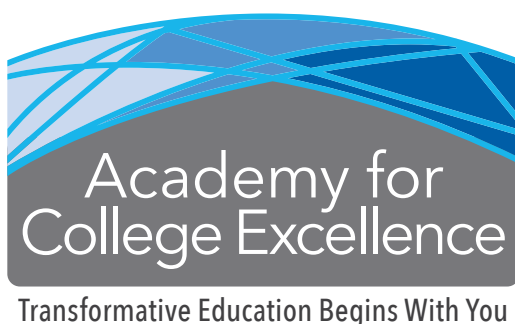
The FELI can be offered as a stand-alone professional development activity or as a part of the process of bringing an ACE program to a college. The FELI is the first step for faculty interested in teaching ACE classes. This institute simulates the transformative learning incorporated into the ACE Bridge Term program for students.

FELI Outcomes and Evaluations

MPR Associates, Inc. is conducting a formal study:

- To learn how community college faculty and administrators who participate in FELI perceive the Institute, and what they report as effects on their dispositions and instructional practices;
- To learn whether reported changes in faculty and administrators' attitudes, behaviors, and instructional practices affect student outcomes such as course completion.

In general, the results show that participants value their experience in the FELI highly, and report personal transformational effects similar to those experienced by community college students who complete the ACE Foundation Course. FELI participants indicate that participation has positive effects on their teaching, improves their communication strategies, and alters their beliefs about teaching.



Personal Transformation

Results from a post-FELI survey suggest that participants experience changes in their self-perceptions, interactions with colleagues, and personal relationships. Approximately 70% of all survey respondents, regardless of professional position, reported that they agreed or strongly agreed with the statement that the FELI had changed them in terms of their self-awareness. A majority of respondents also reported that they have changed the ways they interact with colleagues based on what they learned at the FELI.

A majority of participants report that they experience significant renewal and inspiration upon completion of a FELI.

Effects on Instructional Practice

Results from the post-FELI survey strongly suggest that FELI participation has a substantial impact on FELI participants' approaches to teaching. Overall, 61% of participants reported that they agreed or strongly agreed that they have changed their instructional practices based on what they learned at the FELI.

During interviews, respondents were asked whether they had been able to incorporate aspects of what they had learned into their teaching practice and/or work with colleagues. They were also asked about what had facilitated or hindered that process. Most indicated they had integrated FELI principles to some degree: the most common being that it changed how they interacted and communicated with their students. One instructor indicated that prior to FELI she had certain standards she expected her students to meet, but from FELI she learned "how to mold her teaching to her students. High-risk students can be highly intelligent, but other factors in their life get in the way." She indicated that she's learning to be "more alert, aware, sensitive, considerate, and patient."

—FELI Graduate, MPR Report 2011

Video of FELI Graduates' Experiences

Community college staff, faculty and administrators share their FELI experiences, as well as their impressions of ACE and its potential.

<http://my-ace.org/faculty-video-large-format>

"The experience has given me a fresh look at the student experience, which will in turn help me to become a stronger teacher. Personally, I was able to gain tools to express myself better and be a stronger listener."

—A.T., Los Medanos College 2012

FELI Graduate Guidebook

FELI graduates will receive a Guidebook to support integration of the FELI experience into non-ACE courses.

Curriculum Themes:

- Successful Students
- Student Bonding and Community Building
- Productive Conversations Between Classmates
- Becoming Aware of Perception and Judgment
- Recognizing Student Strengths

Cost for a FELI

ACE offers multiple ways to buy a ticket for a 5-day FELI:

1. A college may purchase individual tickets to send participants to a FELI event held at another site for \$440 per day per seat. We recommend that a group of faculty and administrators attend a FELI together to obtain the maximum benefit for your school; early bird & group discounts are available. *Breakfast, lunch, snacks & FELI Guidebook included in price; lodging & transportation costs not included, ACE offers local lodging suggestions*
2. Campuses can purchase an entire on-campus FELI event for up to 20 participants at a price of approximately \$27,000 or \$270 per day per seat.
3. Contact ACE to discuss the option that is right for you.

Sign up for a FELI

Review the dates of upcoming events and register for a FELI on the ACE website:

<http://my-ace.org/upcoming-events>

Email: FELI@my-ace.org

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www.my-ace.org