

Moving from Anxiety to Celebration: The ALP Journey

for Students, Faculty, and Staff
at Jackson Community College

ALP Conference June 7 – 8, 2012

Presenters

Dave DeBaker

Clarinda Flannery

Martha Petry



The ALP Journey at JCC



About Jackson Community College



- 9,000 students
- 1 main campus, 3 satellite campuses – 1 opening this fall
- 44 % full time students
- 60% over the age of 22
- 15% minority enrollment


Jackson Community
College
<http://www.jccmi.edu>
2111 Emmons Road
Jackson, MI 49201
517-787-0800



About Jackson Community College



- Achieving the Dream School, 2007
- Foundation Studies Department created, January 2011
- Strong Institutional Research Department
- Title III Grant awarded, September 2010
- Supportive administration


Jackson Community
College
<http://www.jccmi.edu>
2111 Emmons Road
Jackson, MI 49201
517-787-0800



Success Rates in DE Writing Course

The Gathering Storm



Success Rates in Our Developmental Writing Course – ENG 090

Course	2006-07	2007-08	2008-09	2009-10	2010-11
DE Writing	70.8%	70.9%	67.6%	70.3%	62.3%



The Start of Our Journey

Meeting Professor Marvel



The Start of Our Journey

Charlotte Finnegan (Title III) met Professor Marvel, aka Peter Adams at an early 2010 Achieving the Dream conference.

Charlotte shared ALP and the CCRC study

Peter, Charlotte, and Dave discussed ALP



Trip to ALP Conference

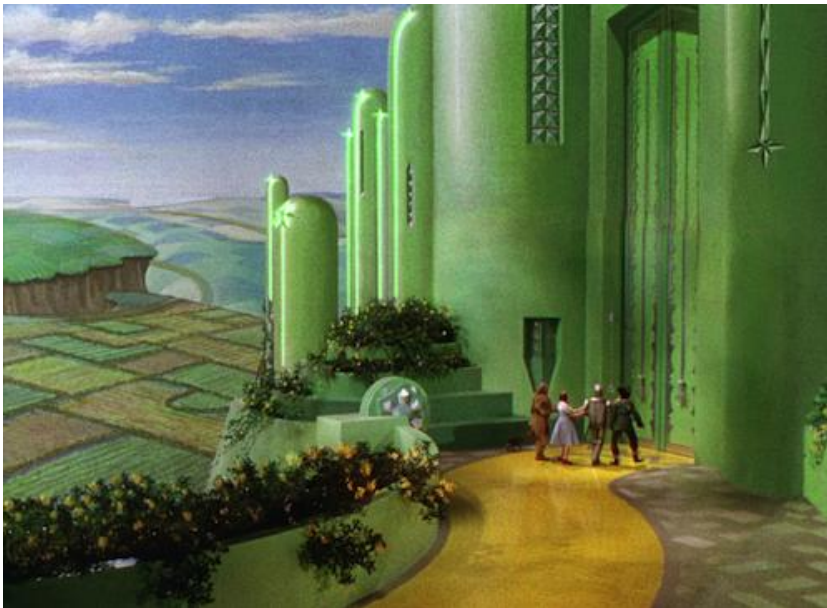
Arriving in OZ



Trip to ALP Conference

What We Learned (“Take Aways”)

- The people at CCBC REALLY loved this course
- Be flexible
- Most of our teaching methods are based on oral tradition
- Some see Developmental Education as a gate, others see it as a path



Trip to ALP Conference

Bliss

“This is amazing! This is changing how I view developmental education.”



Fear

“How will we do this?
Is this actually as good as the conference makes it seem?
What am I going to do in my class?”



Bringing ALP Back Home

Following the Yellow Brick Road



Bringing ALP Back Home

Summer Workgroup Planning and Fall 2011 Implementation

The Yellow Brick Road

- I was the scarecrow—timid and skeptical
- Too good to be true
- Contradicted traditional DE instruction



Bringing ALP Back Home

Summer Workgroup Planning and Fall 2011 Implementation

Early planning

- Meeting with the deans and instructors from all departments
- Decided on 5 sections, taught by 4 different instructors
- 4 sections ran; 1 was cancelled due to low enrollment, resulting in 3 instructors



Bringing ALP Back Home

2011 Summer Workgroup Planning and Fall 2011 Implementation

Structure of course

- 131 meets first; half-hour break; 090 meets next
- Common syllabi, grading scale, attendance, policy, essay genres:
 - ✓ Narrative
 - ✓ Profile
 - ✓ Research Essay
 - ✓ Multigenre Presentation of Research (including process analysis essay)
 - ✓ Portfolio Reflection Letter

Bringing ALP Back Home

2011 Summer Workgroup Planning and Fall 2011 Implementation

Prior to Fall Semester

- Marketing w/ flyer and brochure
- Advisors and orientations

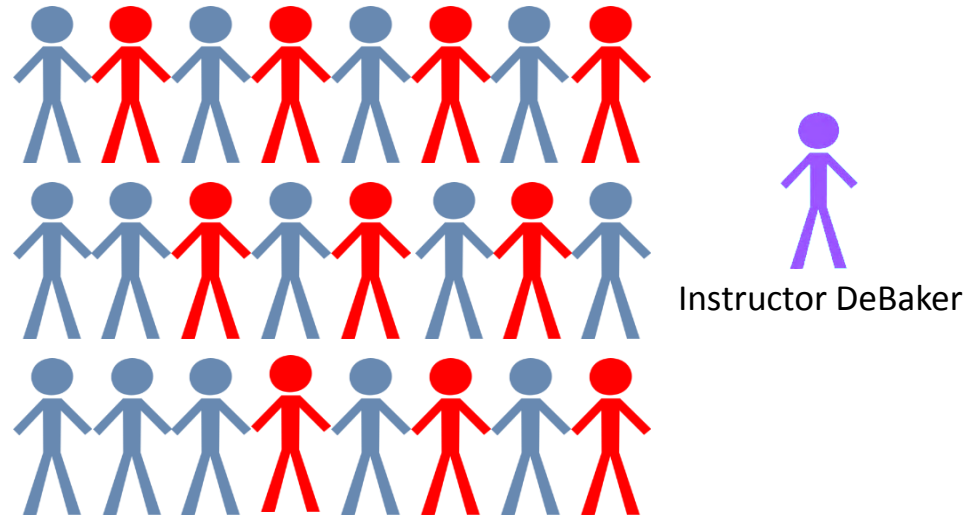
During the Semester

- Instructors met once a month and shared experiences
- Instructors engaged in informal hallway conversations



How JCC's ALP "Blended Courses" Work

ENG 131.BC – Meets 9am to 10:30am – Mon/Wed



24 students total

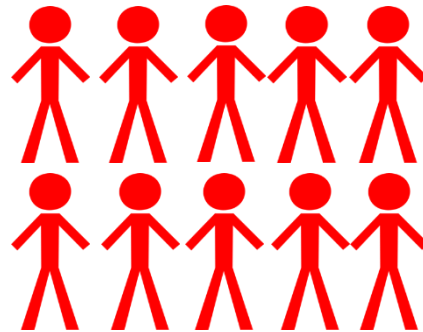
 = 14 students registered just in College Writing (ENG 131)

 = 10 Blended Course students registered in College and DE Writing

How JCC's Blended Courses Work

ENG 090.BC – Meets 10:30am to 12:30pm – Mon/Wed

The 10 ENG 090 students from the 131.BC



Instructor Smith

Same Instructor

What happened in the 090.BC section?

Inside the Classroom

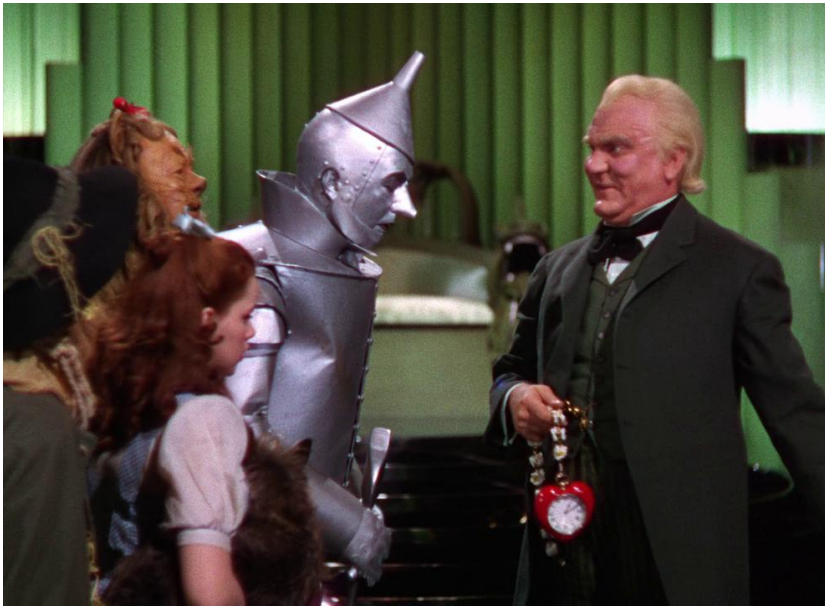
The Land of Oz



Something sacred was taking place. . .

Our Data and Results

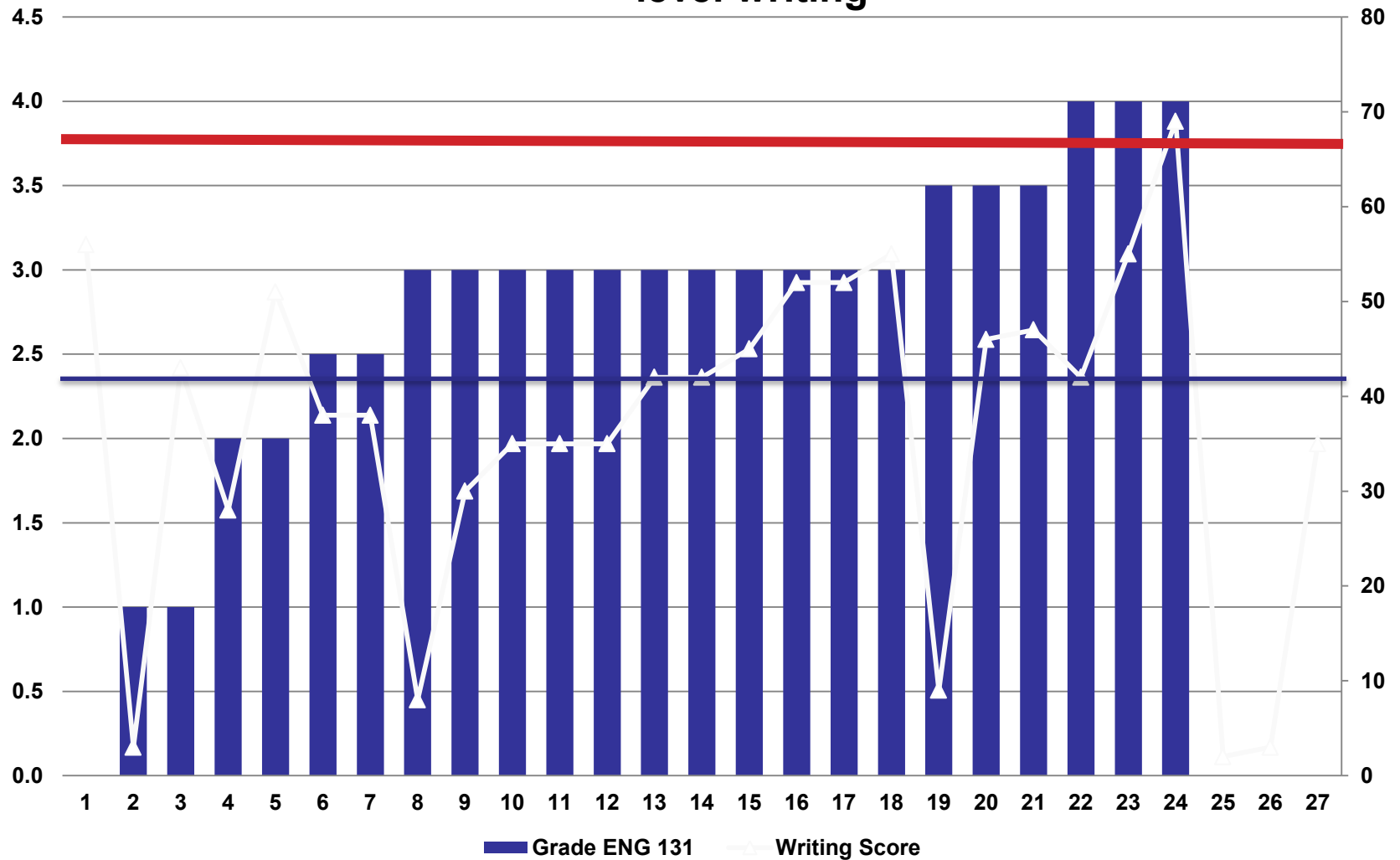
The Heart of the Matter



The next three slides are not included in your PowerPoint handout.

ENG 131 Grades of ENG 090 BC Students vs Writing Placement Scores

Compass Writing Score is 58 or higher to enter college level writing



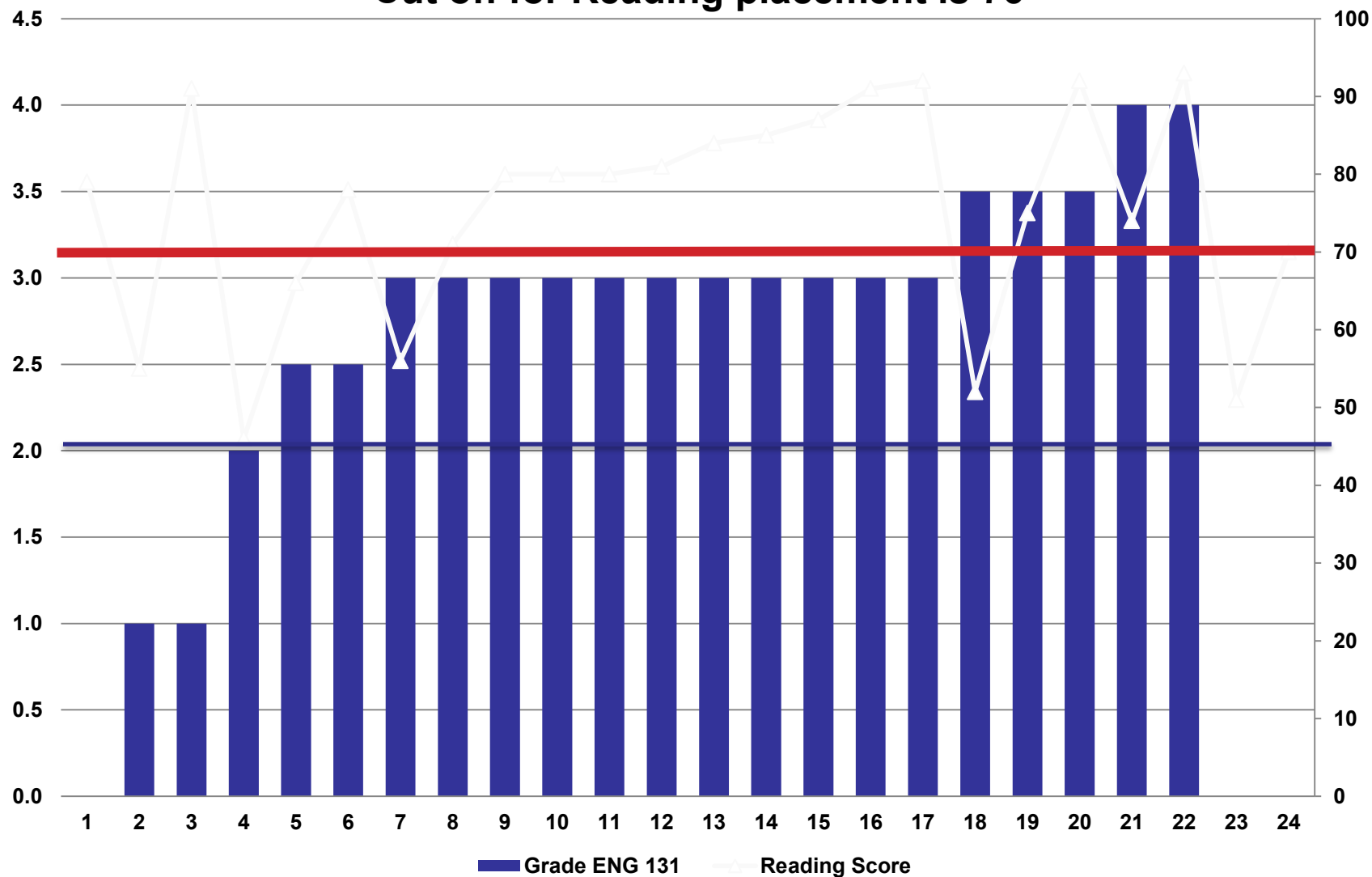
Our Data And Results

**4 students did not take Accuplacer; we used
ACT scores as a measure**

DE Writing grade	College Level Grade	ACT Score
4.0	2.5	15
4.0	4.0	14
3.5	3.0	16
3.5	3.5	13

ENG 131 Grades of ENG 090 BC Students vs Reading Placement Scores

Cut off for Reading placement is 76



Results of Fall 2011

Students	Course	% passed	% failed	Total #
DE Writing Students	DE Writing Grades	87%	13%	31
	College Writing Grades	81%	19%	31
College Writing Students in ALP “Blended Courses” Sections	College Writing Grades	70%	30%	43
DE Writing Comparison Group	DE Writing Grades	73%	27%	258

Results of Winter 2012

Students	Course	% passed	% failed	Total #
DE Writing Students	DE Writing Grades	96%	4%	24
	College Writing Grades	83%	17%	24
College Writing Students in ALP “Blended Courses” Sections	College Writing Grades	63%	37%	32
DE Writing Comparison Group	DE Writing Grades	59%	41%	137

What We Worried about and Shouldn't Have

We had the power all the time!



Note our red shoes!

What We Worried About and Shouldn't Have

- Planning the course (lessons/pedagogy)
- Portfolio assessment
- Forming a community
- Attendance



What We Worried About and Shouldn't Have

The Quality of Students' Work—Willard Daggett's Philosophy

- ✓ Rigor
- ✓ Relevance
- ✓ Relationships

Evidence: Final Portfolio and Portfolio Reflection Letter



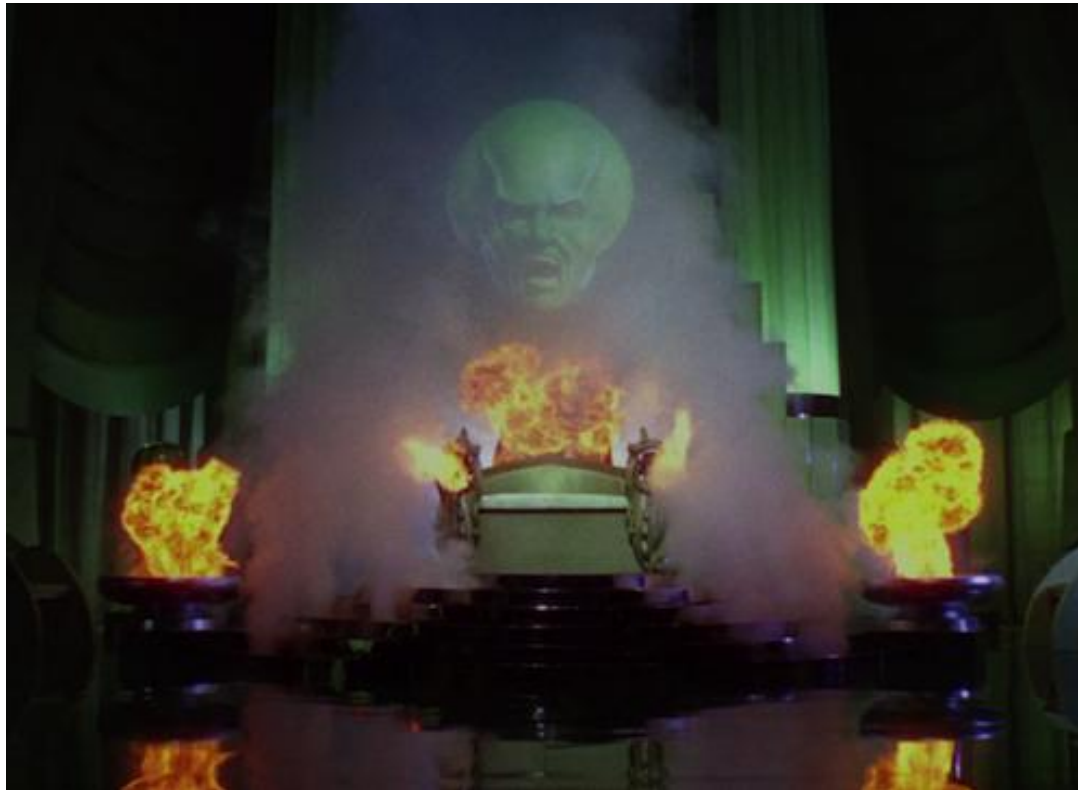
What We Should've Worried About, But Didn't

The Return of the Wicked Witch



What We Should've Worried About, But Didn't

- Explaining how the course works (students, staff, other faculty)
- Marketing issues
- Informing advisors—validity issues



What We Should've Worried About, But Didn't

- Limitations of online course registration systems
- Students registered in 1 section, but not the other
- Keeping colleagues informed and gaining “buy-in”



Scaling Up/Next Steps

Is it only a dream?



Scaling Up/Next Steps

“If something you are doing is successful, you have a moral imperative to scale up”

Quote from last year's ALP Conference

General Issues

- 7 ALP sections—main campus and 2 satellites
- 3 new instructors
- Marketing strategies— “Bundle your Courses”
- Improved communication with advising , scheduling, and composition faculty
- See everything in **“What we should've worried about, but didn't”**

Unanswered Data Questions

- Fall to Fall retention rates from our 4 pilot courses in Fall 2011
- Success rates of our first year ALP course students in classes outside of English



Questions About Our Journey