

#	Please describe in detail what you believe McNeese could do that would result in the biggest positive impact on student learning:	Please provide information on any resources or evidence that might support your above suggestion.
1	Academic advising is as important as teaching. An adviser is guide who will help the student plan his courses, monitor his progress and resolve problems leading the student to graduation by the most optimum path. Advising is not a clerical job. Adviser has to know the student well in terms of his family background, study habits, outside work, extracurricular activities. Adviser must keep records on the student as a log till he graduates. The student must be able to meet with the adviser as and when he needs help.	McNeese is recognized as one of the top institutions of good student advising. Excellence with a personal touch means good advising also. Advisers must devote time to advise students. Like SEI there must SEA to evaluate advisers in APR. Good advising helps retention of students. Good advising makes good students.
2	Utilize already existing on-campus facilities to enhance student learning. For example, instead of a basic infirmary with limited physician hours, utilize the nursing building's community clinic as the on-campus infirmary. Nursing students should obtain some of their field hours there, medical laboratory students can learn venipuncture and run basic lab work, radiology students can gain experience with basic xrays, and pre-pharmacy and pre-med can be utilized to gain experience also. In 'the real world' this is what happens in our local hospitals. Students can gain experience as long as licensed qualified staff is in charge- which is what our faculty is. Utilize our on-campus resources and the knowledge and licenses of our faculty to its fullest. This would benefit student learning in the health sciences the most, but also impact all student learning as this pilot could be copied across campus. Criminal justice majors should be utilizing our police force resources and knowledge. Mass Communication should be utilizing our radio station and PR department. The Department of Psychology should be playing an active role in the Counseling Center.	1. Healthier students are better learners ( <a href="http://www.equitycampaign.org//a/document/12557_equitymattersvol6_web03082010.pdf">http://www.equitycampaign.org//a/document/12557_equitymattersvol6_web03082010.pdf</a> ) 2. Internships increase student learning and future employment ( <a href="http://www.forbes.com/sites/jacquelynsmith/2012/12/06/internships-may-be-the-easiest-way-to-a-job-in-2013">http://www.forbes.com/sites/jacquelynsmith/2012/12/06/internships-may-be-the-easiest-way-to-a-job-in-2013</a> ) 3. This atmosphere would emphasize 'student-centered' learning, because of the active mode the students would be engaged in ( <a href="http://ccliconference.org/files/2010/03/Froyd_Stu-CenteredLearning.pdf">http://ccliconference.org/files/2010/03/Froyd_Stu-CenteredLearning.pdf</a> ) 4. Foster community relationships through volunteering and consulting: community professionals can serve as consultants to help guide student learning, and foster relationships with local resources
3	What if we grouped our Gen Ed required courses so that they created learning communities. You could have the early bird community (classes from 8-12) With Math, English, Science and History and a Night Owl community (same classes but from 2-6). Students would network and take courses together. In addition, for after the gen ed you could create similar communities by linking courses or teaching them in blocks at the upper levels. This way the students could see how the information they learn from one course links to other courses, they would have a community of learners to help them complete the coursework.	see above
4	Student learning has evolved at ALL levels (including K-12) to focus less on mastering topics and more on applying information that has been learned. This may be called 'critical thinking' or something else, but ultimately it would involve helping students develop and comprehend the CONNECTIONS between the CONTENT they are learning (which IS important) and the 'real world' -- whether that be their daily, personal lives, their relationships at home or work, or their careers (careers might need to be the focus). For almost 20 years i have observed students who memorize facts very well but cannot see the connections between what they learn in one class and what they learn in another class -- both inside the same discipline and across disciplines. Applications of knowledge would be an excellent skill to grasp for those who wish to excel in graduate school and/or the careers they pursue after college. Critical thinking skills, once developed, also seem to cross over into other aspects of our lives (relationships, politics, social interactions, problem-solving, finances, etc.), so this would promote not only improved student learning but improved lives overall (theoretically).	There is a wealth of research on the importance of 'critical thinking skills' that could be cited here. Many assignments and activities conducted in our degree programs already assess critical thinking (from Gen Ed work previously). so it would be nice to see those activities increased and used by other disciplines across the university.
5	I believe that greater support and encouragement for students to participate in study abroad courses and similar programs will result in the biggest positive impact on student learning at McNeese State University. Studies from several other universities have shown that schools that have study abroad components in their curriculum usually have higher retention rates, higher 'on-time' graduation rates, lower rates of students transferring out, and even higher rates of alumni donations after graduation. Even more significantly, for a regional university with a majority commuter student body such as McNeese State, study abroad programs will give students who would never consider leaving their 'comfort zone' the opportunity to be exposed to new environments, expand their horizons, open minds, and shatter generalizations and stereotypes about people/cultures around the world. The pressing need for more study abroad programs crossed my mind when I had a student a few years ago, a Ms. M. Gaspard--an older student about my age--who told me she has never left the Southwest Louisiana region in her life...not even 30 miles westward to Texas!! Upon hearing this, I really wanted to lead her to my car and take her on the short road trip to Texas (I ultimately decided against that, for the best interests of professional conduct!) Not surprisingly, that student eventually dropped out of McNeese, and when I crossed paths with her several months ago (pregnant and working at a local restaurant), Ms. Gaspard has informed me that the furthest she has ever been in her life was when she took her daughter to Blue Bayou outside Baton Rouge. While Ms. Gaspard's case is a rare extreme, it shows that encouraging students to leave their comfort zones by sojourning to new areas will have a positive impact on retention, graduation, and university support as students become alumni and enter into professional careers.	<a href="http://globaledresearch.com/study-abroad-impact.asp">http://globaledresearch.com/study-abroad-impact.asp</a> <a href="http://www.nafsa.org/Resource_Library_Assets/Public_Policy/Measuring_the_Impact_of_Study_Abroad/">http://www.nafsa.org/Resource_Library_Assets/Public_Policy/Measuring_the_Impact_of_Study_Abroad/</a> <a href="https://www.insidehighered.com/quicktakes/2013/07/11/study-abroad-positively-impacts-personality-study-says">https://www.insidehighered.com/quicktakes/2013/07/11/study-abroad-positively-impacts-personality-study-says</a> <a href="http://jsi.sagepub.com/content/9/4/356.abstract">http://jsi.sagepub.com/content/9/4/356.abstract</a> <a href="http://studyabroad.ucmerced.edu/study-abroad-statistics/statistics-study-abroad">http://studyabroad.ucmerced.edu/study-abroad-statistics/statistics-study-abroad</a> The students, alumni, and faculty in the University community who have participated in a study abroad program.

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6	Student advising and career planning	At the present time advising is an added duty given to faculty after teaching load is figured. This puts the professor having to fit into their very busy schedule one of the most important items in the student learning success program. Place more emphasis and load release time in order for the advisers to personalize and closely track the progress with the students.
7	Innovation in Education -- Student learning results from effective education methods. Innovation needs to go beyond online and hybrid courses. What if the University utilized the Innovation program and SEED Center to develop 'out-of-the-box' delivery methods and teaching strategies ? For a university campus (physical campus and for that matter, faculty) to thrive in the future, students will need to feel the campus learning environment best suits their needs and meets their expectations. Methods already being explored (service learning, internships, travel abroad) could be part of this plan. Faculty from each college could work to identify pilot courses and/or programs where innovative teaching methods could be infused. To measure differences in student learning, it might be useful to select a few core courses that use department /common examinations. Just as an example -- 4 sections of History 201 or Math 113 could pilot these teaching methods and results compared with other sections. Engaged faculty teaching engaged students attracts and retains both.	<a href="http://edinnovation.wisc.edu/">http://edinnovation.wisc.edu/</a>