Florida Keys Community College strives to ensure that its students acquire the knowledge and skills necessary to be successful in their professional and personal endeavors.

A method for accomplishing this is to assess general education annually in a broad range of skill sets such as reading, writing, communicating, and problem-solving. This skill set also includes demonstrated technological abilities as well as an awareness and respect for differences.

Students who acquire proficiency in these areas have an enhanced opportunity to experience the positive impact of education, which can, in turn, ignite a passion for continual, life-long learning.

Therefore, college faculty this past 2006-2007 year decided to encourage greater learning of these important general education skills and concepts by linking a component of their curriculum with one of the college’s greatest strengths and assets: the community.

College faculty took their students outside the classroom for an educational activity that was conducted in association with a need or service of a community organization. For example, the foreign language instructor took his class to the Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals (SPCA) so that the class could assist with their literature translation needs.

The students successfully translated the SPCA’s brochure into Spanish and then entered the information into publishing software. This activity, while benefiting a non-profit agency in the county, also served to engage students in their learning with the faculty and one another, consequently increasing enthusiasm and excitement in learning.

This educational activity also presented the foreign language instructor with the opportunity to assess the level of student competency in computer skills. All students who participated in this activity received an “A”; for which the instructor attributes in part to the stimulating challenge of the activity as well as the grading clarity that his 12-point, computer skills evaluation rubric offered.

There were eight FKCC faculty members who linked a general education activity with a community-based need or experience in order to increase student involvement and learning this past year. The results highlighted in this brochure demonstrate the positive impact of these experiences.

Upon review of these learning and assessment initiatives, one can easily see that these faculty-driven activities strengthened student achievement and appreciation for the value of learning. As a result, faculty has continued to pursue community-based educational activities for the purpose of expanding our students’ horizons and broadening their general education skill set.

FKCC is committed to providing for Equal Access/Equal Opportunity. The College does not discriminate on the basis of color, religion, gender, sexual orientation, age, marital status, national origin or disability in its employment practices or in the admission and treatment of students.
**Arts & Humanities**

**Kate Miller- Drawing I**

**Objective:** Students will be able to demonstrate detailed contour line drawings of botanical life at the Key West Botanical Gardens.

**Activity/Assessment:** Prior to the learning activity, students were taught detailed line drawing techniques and given a rubric, clearly explaining the activity and grading scale. Students visited the Key West Botanical Gardens and carefully observed and sketched various botanical life. These preliminary sketches were used to carefully plan and complete a finely executed work of art.

**Results:** 100% of the students received a C or higher. The artwork has been displayed at FKCC and in the foyer of the Botanical Gardens.

**Biography**

**Suzy Park- Student Life Skills**

**Objective:** Students will be able to describe physical changes in the body systems which are characteristic of the aging process.

**Activity/Assessment:** Students visited the Key West Convalescent Center, met with the director and then observed the residents during a typical afternoon. Students were assigned to write about their experience and to identify the various physical changes and common health conditions that they observed. Students received a grading rubric of activity expectations prior to the visit.

**Results:** 100% of students received an A. Group discussion and grading of the activity found that students developed a higher level of respect for the elderly and an increased awareness of the aging process. They also learned how certain lifestyle behaviors impact the body’s systems over time.

**Cultural Awareness**

**Sharon Farrell- Oral & Community History**

**Objective:** Students will demonstrate the awareness of social and cultural history of the residents of the Keys without bias.

**Activity/Assessment:** Students visited several historical sites of Key West; Customs House, Key West Cemetery, and East & West Martello Towers. They were then assigned to conduct an audio taped interview with a long time resident of the Keys for the purpose of sharing the persons’ cultural and social life experiences. A 12-point grading rubric was distributed beforehand for clarity of expectations.

**Results:** 80% of students received a B or higher. The taped interviews were shared with the FKCC library to document the oral history that has shaped the culture of the Keys.

**Reading**

**Louise Rzario- College Prep Reading**

**Objective:** Students will be able to demonstrate acquired reading skills through proper fluency, rate of speed, expression and self-monitoring.

**Activity/Assessment:** Students presented a two-hour reading session for Kindergarten and First grade classes at Gerald Adams Elementary School. Prior to the activity, the elementary school teacher met with the students, gave them the reading books and advised them of proper school etiquette. Students were also provided with a grading rubric comprised of four criteria: fluency, rate, expression and self-monitoring.

**Results:** 100% of students received a C or higher.
- Both the children and college students learned the importance of developing literacy at an early age.
- 3 students became interested in applying for substitute teaching positions.
- 1 student identified a career interest in elementary school education.
- A potential mentoring opportunity was identified for an ESL student with a child from Nicaragua.
- RAVE developed a work-study opportunity for students to work for a family literacy program.

**Problem Solving**

**Jay Gogin- Ceramics**

**Objective:** Students will be able to overcome obstacles and constraints to successfully design, construct, and install a ceramic wall mural for FKCC’s Hyperbaric Chamber Building.

**Activity/Assessment:** Students worked over a 3-semester period constructing a ceramic wall mural. Based on that experience, students were required to describe 3 obstacles, 3 possible solutions, and then clearly explain how and why one selected solution worked. Students were given a 16-point rubric to clarify the grading scale, prior to the assignment.

**Results:** 100% of students received a C or higher.
- The beautiful mural welcomes all students and community members that visit “the Point” area of FKCC.