

**0653236**, Diane Rover, Monica Bruning, Frankie Santos Laanan, Steve Mickelson, and Mack Shelley, Iowa State University, Harry McMaken and Kim Linduska, Des Moines Area Community College, **SEEC: Student Enrollment and Engagement through Connections**

The project is implementing five strategies through a set of integrated recruitment and retention objectives to increase the numbers of engineering graduates at Iowa State University (ISU) and pre-engineering students at Des Moines Area Community College (DMACC). The strategies include creating an ISU/DMACC learning village, developing a connected curriculum for first-year and transfer students, partnering in student-centered advising, using coordinated networking throughout the state with strategic partners and messages, and evaluating cross-institutional practices and measures. Learning village development has drawn upon expertise in learning communities (freshman, sophomore, and junior levels), curriculum development, service learning, student outcomes assessment, recruitment/retention of underrepresented groups, program assessment, and peer mentoring. Focus groups conducted with current ISU-DMACC transfer students have revealed key issues for transfer success that can be addressed through a learning village. The ISU/DMACC learning village has offered onsite engineering advising for DMACC students, class visits by engineering faculty to DMACC pre-engineering classes (presented to over 100 students), ISU career fair visits by DMACC pre-engineering students (over 60 students), peer mentoring, and bimonthly pre-engineering newsletters. It has led the development of a spring semester service learning project, an eight-week engineering orientation class to be taught on the DMACC campus, and podcast materials for learning more about the engineering profession. Developing and enhancing intra- and inter-institutional relationships has been an emphasis in the first year of the project. These relationships and networks are complex and will continue to grow and evolve throughout the project as new ways of serving and connecting with transfer students emerge. Leveraging related programs and resources has also been an emphasis early on, including ISU's Admissions Partnership Program with community colleges, Laanan's NSF-sponsored project Pathway to a STEM Baccalaureate Degree, and Bruning's NSF-sponsored project Female Recruits Explore Engineering. An evaluation structure is in place to interact and intersect with ISU and DMACC teams.