

## ***Academic Plan - Excellence in Teaching and Learning***

### ***Learning Communities - 2008 Update***

A satisfying first-year experience with strong academic content and a small group setting play an important role in making Themed Learning Communities (TLCs) successful. IUPUI has received national recognition for this program. TLCs involve two or more discipline-based courses paired with an integrative seminar in which incoming first-year students enroll. Students participating in Fall 2007 TLCs had significantly higher first semester grade point averages in comparison to non-participating students, even while controlling for all significant background characteristics. The TLC students had an adjusted first semester grade point average of 2.78 compared to an adjusted rate of 2.55 for non-participants. The success of the TLCs has led to a considerable increase in program offerings. Through partnerships with 11 different schools on campus, the number of TLC program offerings has expanded from 7 in 2003 to 30 in 2008. In Fall 2008, over 100 faculty and staff will be participating in TLCs that will serve approximately 750 entering freshman students.