

Gettysburg College and Millersville University Peer Research Program Visit
Submitted by Mallory Jallas, Research & Instruction Librarian, Gettysburg College.

On Wednesday, November 29th, 2017 librarians from Gettysburg College travelled to McNairy Library at Millersville University to learn more about peer research programs offered at each library. This trip was made possible with the generous support of the ACLCP Peer to Peer Site Visitation Grant.

At Gettysburg the Peer Research Mentor program was created in 2014 to support peer learning in the library and expand library outreach. The Research Fellows program at Millersville focuses on an independent research project and developing a community of practice among students. Millersville librarians had reached out to Gettysburg with interest in discussing program models, sharing information on training methods, and learning more about our different approaches to peer research programs. These main points shaped the goals and planning for the visit.

Before the meeting both groups exchanged documentation about each of the peer programs to prime the conversation. The librarians also identified key questions that they wanted to explore during their time together. Millersville wanted to know more about Gettysburg's development of a peer learning community and Gettysburg was interested in the training model for Millersville's Research Fellows. In the weeks before the visit, both groups developed a 10 minute presentation that addressed the other's key question.

The agenda for the visit is provided below. The day was structured around sharing presentations, discussion, and a brain storming activity. The brainstorming activity, that Millersville developed, yielded a lot of ideas to consider for the future. This activity had the librarians working together around the central topics from the presentations: developing learning community and training. Each group generated action items and was able to walk away with practical next steps from the activity to take back to their respective libraries.

Overall, this visit provided a great opportunity to learn from each other and generate ideas for the future of these peer programs. We look forward to sharing with one another how our programs continue to evolve and share resources. We also appreciate the support of ACLCP in these efforts.

Agenda for Gettysburg and Millersville Visit: Peer Programs

10-10:30am: Library Learning Spaces Tour

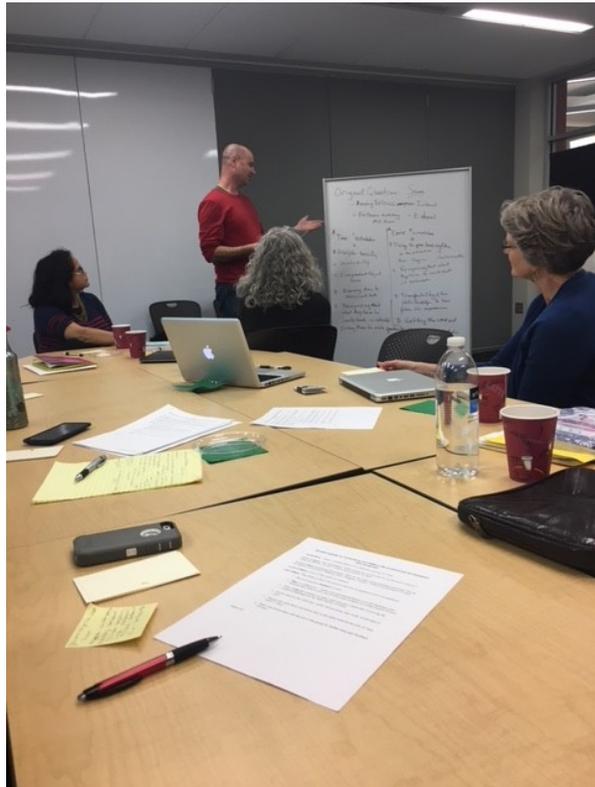
10:45-11:05am: Millersville Presentation, "What training do we provide for our Research Fellows?" and follow-up questions

11:10-11:30am: Gettysburg Presentation, "How do we create a peer learning community among our students and beyond?" and follow-up questions

11:40-12:40: Lunch

1:00-2:00: Why? What if? How? Discussion to address our questions

1. Has your question changed? (5min)
2. Why is it difficult to.. (insert question here)? List all the challenges and obstacles that stand in your way to solve your problem (10min)
3. Write "what if?" solutions on index cards after reviewing the obstacles (10min)
4. Review and sort the cards in to 3 piles: tell me more, may work, or revisit later (5min)
5. Discuss and write down one action step on the cards sorted in the pile of "may work" (5min)
6. Share your action steps with the rest of the group for further ideas and feedback (20min)



Millersville Librarians presenting their challenges in "Why? What if? How?"



Sorting through index cards of "what if?" ideas