As you may already know, Lawrence Tech is one of twenty-four-year institutions selected to participate in the Foundations of Excellence in the First College Year program. Foundations of Excellence (FoE) is a comprehensive, self-guided study that looks at all aspects of the first year in college by focusing on specific areas shown to create a successful first year experience for students.

Participation is needed from our faculty, staff, and students for the project to succeed. You can get involved by joining one of the four subcommittees. The subcommittees will work during January to March to analyze the available data and come-up with recommendations. We plan to introduce the subcommittees’ recommendations next academic year.

To this date we have selected the Steering Committee Members, identified the four subcommittees, introduced the project to the campus community, and launched the Faculty/Staff Survey. The Foundations of Excellence Liaisons for Lawrence Tech are Dr. Gladys Avilés, First Year Programs Coordinator, and Dr. Steven Howell, Associate Provost and Dean of Graduate Programs.

To find out more information and to get involved, contact firstyear@ltu.edu. With your support, we can learn more about and then improve the First Year experience for all our students!

COM 3000, the Writing Proficiency Examination (WPE), is a graduation requirement for all LTU undergraduate students. It’s a timed writing exam during which students write an essay in response to one of several writing prompts provided at the exam. Students should take the exam after earning 60 credit hours and before earning 80 credit hours. The exam date remaining this semester is Friday, November 21.

Workshops and writing practice with individual critiques are available for students who wish to improve their writing skills every Thursday from 3:00 – 4:30 p.m. in room M212. Topics include: avoiding banned errors, improving your writing fluency, and organizing ideas in an essay.

There are two WPE preparatory workshops to help students prepare for the exam. The one-hour orientation introduces the format of the exam and gives students an idea of what to expect. The next orientation is Monday, November 17. The three-hour intensive is for students who have failed the WPE or who want more preparation. The next intensive workshop is Friday, November 14 from 2:00 – 4:30 p.m. in C201.

Contact Joyce Munro, Director of Writing Proficiency, at x4125 or munro@ltu.edu for more information.
**Fall 08 Pre-Courses A Great Success**

Pre-courses for Fall 2008 were highly successful, with more than 100 students attending various courses, such as Structures 1, Chemistry, English Composition, Mechanics of Materials, and mathematics courses from Essential Math through Calculus 2. Pre-courses help students recall information from past classes; they also preview material that students will encounter in the first few weeks of class and emphasize study strategies and the importance of study groups. The pre-course workshops are led by student tutors from the AAC.

Pre-courses for spring classes are scheduled for January 5 – 8, 2009 and will be held in the Sciences building. All students registered for target courses in both fall and spring are invited to attend. If you are interested in adding a target course to our list of pre-courses, please contact the AAC at x4120 or aac@ltu.edu.