About Project CORE (Creating Opportunities for Research and Engagement) Pilot Program

Overview
- This is a pilot program with lots of assessment built in.
- Starting F2016, it works with cohorts of 100 students in two consecutive years.
- Instead of Perspectives classes, these students fulfill Area B requirements by taking two courses:
  - Intro to the Core—I credit hour, first semester first year
  - Core Capstone—3 credit hours, second semester second year

Intro to the Core
- Students learn rationale and value of Core curriculum.
- Students chart how Core classes help them achieve personal and career goals (ePortfolios).
- Students make connections among Core classes.
- Class introduces them to methods and purposes of Problem-Based Learning.
- The course gives some attention to differing skills needed to succeed in various disciplines, but this is not a reincarnation of VSU1101.

Between the Two Courses (2-semester interval)
- Instructors of Intro classes stay in touch with students.
- They mentor and monitor, but they don’t advise.
- The project convenes all P-CORE students once or twice each semester.
- Mentors build anticipation for Core Capstone, decide how to group students.
- We anticipate that of the 95-100 students who start Project CORE, 60-65 will take Core Capstone course.

Core Capstone
- The course is interdisciplinary and team-taught (simultaneous, not tag-team); it also invites faculty with relevant expertise to supply additional disciplinary perspectives.
- Each course addresses specific “messy” problem (on-campus technology use, Lowndes-Valdosta water management).
- The course uses Problem-based and Project-based learning as well as collaborative groups.
- Students reflect on how they’re using knowledge/concepts from current and prior Core classes to solve problems.
- Students document emerging competencies in ePortfolios.

If You’re Interested
1. Consider joining the Problem-Based Learning teaching circle at the IDEA Center this fall (every other Friday 10:00-10:50).
2. Consider joining the Project CORE teaching circle that will meet in the S2016 semester (time to be arranged).
3. Talk with me (Gardner Rogers). My email is gjrogers@valdosta.edu, and I’ll be happy to meet and talk with anybody who’s interested.