



News Release

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[Nancy Livingston](#)
Public Relations
651-779-3222
Fax 651-779-3470

[Century College](#)
3300 Century Avenue North
White Bear Lake, MN 55110

Century Receives MnSCU Award for GPS Lifeplan

Century College this month received the Minnesota State Colleges and Universities' Innovative Student Affairs Program Award for developing the GPS LifePlan, a campus wide program created to help students improve their goal setting and achievement planning.

Century representatives accepted the award April 16 at a ceremony and reception at Minneapolis Community and Technical College. The event was attended by representatives from all 37 Minnesota state colleges and universities.

Also at the ceremony, Prof. Richard Kotasek, director of Century's Chemical Dependency Program, accepted an award for excellence in teaching. Century President Larry Litecky nominated Kotasek for this award.

The GPS (Goals + Plans = Success) LifePlan has five categories to help students chart their higher education journey: the CareerPlan, EducationPlan, FinancePlan, LeadershipPlan and PersonalPlan. An important component of the GPS LifePlan is the web tool, which brings together campus resources and also provides students with outside resources they otherwise might not have found. The web tool is

connected to Efolio, where students can store information related to their LifePlan. This electronic portfolio is portable and can be used by students throughout their life.

Century students are first introduced to the GPS LifePlan at new student orientation, where particular attention is paid to the EducationPlan, CareerPlan and FinancePlan. Once students begin classes at the college, they are introduced further to the GPS LifePlan through workshops, the web tool, Student Success Day, a variety of retention programming, counselor appointments and assignments within their coursework.

In a recent faculty survey, 101 faculty members out of the 121 respondents said they have integrated GPS LifePlan assignments into their syllabi.

The effectiveness of the GPS LifePlan is currently being evaluated in a study conducted by a University of Minnesota professor. The plan also is being reviewed so that it can be implemented at other colleges and universities. The goal is to make the GPS tool applicable and useful to all students at all MnSCU institutions.



Photo: Century representatives Kristin Hageman and Michelle Jersak accept the award from Vice Chancellor Linda Baer.



Photo: Richard Kotasek, second from right, accepts the excellence award from Trustee Dan McElroy, Vice Chancellor Linda Baer, Century President Larry Litecky and Chancellor James McCormick.