LIVING THE GREAT DREAM
WHAT DO YOU VALUE?
FROM SOLDIER TO SERVANT

DOOR #3
BUILDING RELATIONSHIPS
THE WAYS OF SCIENCE

FRANCISCAN VALUES IN HEALTH CARE
FOOD FOR THOUGHT
BLUE, GOLD, GREEN

MALES IN LEADERSHIP
FINDING THE COURAGE
DISCOVERING TRUE NORTH

THE BRIAR CLIFF LEARNING COMMUNITY
LIVING THE GREAT DREAM
LEARNING COMMUNITY

DESCRIPTION: Become an active agent in your education and personal life at Briar Cliff University! This learning community will provide you with essential tools using the book “The Happy Student: 5 Steps to Academic Fulfillment and Success,” by Daniel Wong. You will have the opportunity to create 1) your own personal map, 2) final destination, 3) compass - core values, and 4) path - personal mission statement, using the life of St. Francis as a guide in relation to your own journey. In addition, discover how you can make a positive impact by adding value to the lives of others as you pursue the Great Dream.

INTERESTED? Contact Louise Paskey or Brenda Parkhill
WHAT DO YOU VALUE?
LEARNING COMMUNITY

DESCRIPTION: Value – defined as a relative worth or importance. What is the importance of a Liberal Arts Education and how would Francis define the value of it? Briar Cliff University prides itself on Liberal Arts – in this learning community students will explore the traditions of BCU through verbal and linguistic strategies.

INTERESTED? Contact Richard Poole, Christine Schroeder or Ben Irlbeck
DESCRIPTION: Like many young men on the cusp of adulthood, he found himself in trouble from time to time and without a clear path for his life. Join us on a quest with Giovanni di Pietro di Bernardone, aka Saint Francis, as he makes the journey from spoiled rich kid to soldier to leader of one of the most influential organizations of all times. On our quest, you’ll be asked to question what you know about leadership and ask yourself, do you have the courage it takes to lead? Can your actions bring about a change in the world, or at least your corner of it?

INTERESTED? Contact Carla Grey, Richard Poole or Michael Crowley
DESCRIPTION: The goal of this learning community is for you to grapple with and take ownership of your choices. Consider door number 1, 2 or 3. Your Franciscan Life (CORE 100) component will explore how Saint Francis of Assisi embraced options and alternatives during his lifetime that were unconventional—and even scandalous—by the values and standards of his age, yielding exceptional opportunities as well as considerable challenges. Your WRTG 109 class will teach you to write clearly and effectively no matter what doors you select. Through reading and writing, you will become better communicators and thinkers. Your Freshman Seminar will encourage you to cultivate success by developing your study skills and habits in order to make educated decisions.

INTERESTED? Contact Shannon Beller, Paul Korchin or Tricia Currans-Sheehan
BUILDING RELATIONSHIPS
LEARNING COMMUNITY

DESCRIPTION: Human beings are naturally social creatures. Becoming an adult is all about learning how to build relationships. The relationships you build during the next four years and beyond will impact your life in many ways. In this community we will learn about Francis’ most significant relationships and how those relationships shaped his life. We will then focus on how to build relationships both on and off campus by examining who we are, and by discovering key elements necessary to cultivate and maintain those relationships.

INTERESTED? Contact Marian Pesky or Jodi Nowowiejski
THE WAYS OF SCIENCE
LEARNING COMMUNITY

DESCRIPTION: Four-year STEM Scholarships are now available! Students in this learning community must be a Biology, Chemistry, Biochemistry, or Environmental Science Major and registered for CHEM 111: Basic Chemistry. This learning community examines global environmental issues relating to technology, energy production, and pollution. You will also participate in a prairie service learning project and apply your knowledge in your chemistry class. Additionally, there will be monthly career exploration meetings with regional STEM professionals, organized group tutoring sessions, and peer mentoring opportunities.

INTERESTED? Contact Jason Adams, Paul Weber, Ted Bryan, Brian Hazlett or Ted Wilson
DESCRIPTION: Compassion and service are core values of all health care professions. This learning community will examine the life of Francis and his values, while applying it to current matters in today’s health care settings. Such matters will be explored through service projects, reflective exercises, and individual and group discussions and presentations, in order to promote personal awareness, growth, and skill development. If you desire to someday be a compassionate and reflective health care provider, this learning community is for you!

INTERESTED? Contact Patrick Cross or Cathy Grimsley
DESCRIPTION: What would Francis eat? Today, in Sioux City and around the globe, there are plenty of people who don’t have access to food. And many of us who do are dependent on industrialized systems of production that put both human health and the Earth’s health at risk. How can we be positive agents for changing this reality? This community will investigate problems, and work proactively toward creating local solutions.

INTERESTED? Contact Ryan Allen, Matthew Pangborn or Michael Crowley
DESCRIPTION: This learning community focuses on your integration into the Briar Cliff Experience (blue and gold) with special emphasis on the Franciscan charism of Caring for Creation (green). You are a part of Creation, and your personal growth and self-actualization, as well as your development in service to others, are important components of this first-year experience. You will examine the life and values of St. Francis through the lens of the National Park Service, the American conservation movement and develop an appreciation of the natural world. You will also become aware of the challenges and opportunities which await you in college and gain skills and insights to effectively make decisions which will enhance your growth. Finally you will improve your ability to express yourself with clarity and depth.

INTERESTED? Contact Ted Bryan or Jason Adams
MALES IN LEADERSHIP
LEARNING COMMUNITY

DESCRIPTION: This learning community helps male first-year students develop their skills and capacities for leadership. The community challenges young men to learn more about their gifts and talents, and identify ways that those gifts and talents can be used in service of others. The community uses common readings and co-curricular activities, including service learning, as the basis for reflection. Skills of self-critique and planning for personal improvement will be developed.

If you are a young man who has ever wondered what you are made of, this learning community is for you!

INTERESTED? Contact Jay Rhodes or Bill Mangan

BR I A R C L I F F
university
the catholic franciscan learning place
DESCRIPTION: One of the most decisive moments in Francis’ life was when he cast off his clothing in public; a gesture symbolizing his relinquishment of status and security. Your next few years in college will bring many new experiences and opportunities for personal and academic growth. In this community we will examine how these experiences invite us to step outside our comfort zones, to cast off our own limitations and to embrace courage, in all its forms.

INTERESTED? Contact Jodi Nowowiejski or Matthew Pangborn
DESCRIPTION: The goal of this learning community is to help each student discover their authentic leadership style. Students will reflect and examine their individual skills and talents and embrace personal growth and transformation. In College Writing, students will learn to write clearly and effectively, and gain confidence in writing skills. In Franciscan Core, students will examine the life of Francis, learn how to use their individual skills to become an asset to their community, and understand how to apply Franciscan principles in their professional, academic, and personal lives. Freshmen Seminar will encourage students to develop their academic skills and leadership strengths. Learning community activities will include service projects, reflective exercises, and discussions. Students will have the opportunity to plan programs and events for the Briar Cliff campus as well as participate in service projects in Siouxland.

INTERESTED? Contact Shari Fowler, Stephanie Andell or Lilly Chen