A Themed Learning Community (TLC) consists of two or three courses taken in conjunction in order to examine a common theme across disciplines like the humanities, natural sciences, and social sciences. TLCs give students the opportunity to engage deeply with a course theme, connect learning across courses in collaborative and active ways, develop relationships with peers/faculty, and ease the transition into college.

**BENEFITS OF TLCs**

**Higher Grade Point Average:** Students participating in TLCs earn GPAs that are .2 higher than non-TLC students. After two years at NIU, students that participated in the 2010 TLCs have an average GPA of 2.88, while non-TLC students earned a GPA of 2.68. (*See graphs on left.*)

**Higher Retention Rates:** Students participating in TLCs have a greater likelihood of enrolling in classes the following semester compared to non-TLC students. After four semesters at NIU, 67% students who participated in TLCs in 2010 went on to enroll in their fifth semester. (*See graphs below.*)

**Small Classes:** 25 students per course

**Academic Success Skills:** higher attendance, increased class participation, study habits, etc.

**Peer Leader:** work with an upper classmen during study sessions to prepare for exams, complete homework, etc.

**Hands-on-Learning:** field trips, speakers, etc.

“*I think that the TLC has brought our freshman class together. These are the only classes where I know everyone’s name. In a lot of my other classes, I only know a few people.*” - TLC Student

“*I would say it’s one of the best things you could get involved in and it gives you a great start to college. It gives you great tools to get a strong start.*” - TLC Student

“*I would recommend TLC to a friend because it may help them learn something from one class that they may use in the other.*” - TLC Student