11-4-1975

David Sweet's Talk Initiates Full Day of Workshops

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Recommended Citation
"David Sweet's Talk Initiates Full Day of Workshops" (1975). News Releases. 6162.
https://ecommons.udayton.edu/news_rls/6162
DAYTON, Ohio, November 4, 1975 -- "Some of our most exciting students haven't been to college," claims the president of a "university without walls."

He is Dr. David Sweet, founding President of Minnesota's Metropolitan State University (MMSU). And he will share his concepts of self-directed learning with UD students and faculty on Wednesday, November 5, at 7:30 p.m. in the Kennedy Union ballroom. His talk will initiate a full day of workshops on Thursday, November 6, entitled "Learning with Gusto: Options to Energize Your Education," sponsored by the Self-Directed Learning Program in cooperation with UD's Metro Division and the Faculty Development Committee.

MMSU is primarily aimed at meeting the educational needs of adults in the Twin Cities Metropolitan area. Since its inception in 1971, MMSU, originally Minnesota Metropolitan State College, has served the needs of hundreds of students and has helped them achieve career success equal to that of their more traditional counterparts.

The University is committed to competency-based education and defines five basic areas of competence: basic learning skills, personal growth, civic skills, cultural-recreational skills, and vocational skills. Classes meet in public libraries, museums, churches, schools, homes, studios, and anywhere else learning resources can be found.

Students, with the aid of an advisor, design their own programs, utilizing internships and on-the-job training as well as classroom study. The purpose of the programs is to help the individuals to locate and integrate the resources needed to reach their goals. Instead of letter grades, students receive written appraisals of their competence. And the appraisals are included in the passport-like diploma, so that each graduate can show anyone - a prospective employer for instance - just how the degree was earned.

The school's innovative approach to learning and its subsequent success have intrigued feature reporters from publications such as the Christian Science Monitor and the National Observer. The concepts that have made MMSU a vital force in the lives of its students can be used through SDL by students at UD to enliven their own learning experiences within the University structure.

Such is the focus of the series of workshops to be held November 6 on the Kennedy Union third floor between 9 a.m. and 4:30 p.m. Workshop leaders from the UD faculty and from community agencies will introduce participants to value clarification, goal setting, ways to personal growth, communication skills, discovering your creativity, learning styles and strategies, simulations and games, and help for making a career choice.

Both Dr. Sweet's lecture and the workshops are open to the general public without charge. They may be of particular interest to adults who are considering a return to the campus, who will find it helpful to develop awareness of their own needs and goals, to consider alternative methods of learning, and to survey the options available within the UD structures.