

Pew grant focuses on learning outcomes

Alverno College has received a grant of \$1.18 million from The Pew Charitable Trusts to improve the use and understanding of student learning outcomes in higher education.

Together, Alverno and up to 25 colleges and universities will develop and put into practice a framework to guide institutions that wish to use student learning outcomes in their own teaching and assessment.

Focusing on learning outcomes, called "abilities" in the

Alverno curriculum, gives schools a way to identify not only what students should know, but what they should be able to do with their learning.

During the 18-month project, Alverno will work with the selected schools to identify the principles and assumptions that schools follow when they choose to use student learning outcomes. Alverno will also identify how using outcomes focuses and shapes the practices of a college or university – everything from

course design to advising, to the way that students are determined to be proficient in a skill or subject.

The project will provide a public forum for educators to discuss the "scholarship of teaching" and allow Alverno faculty to research and publish their work on outcomes in relation to teaching, learning and assessment. The collaborating schools will have opportunities for formal presentations at Alverno's annual workshops for educators.