

# Community Building

making friends

community conferment

camaraderie

# making friends

- Students said they found people online toward whom they gravitated.
- Often these were people with whom similarities were found.
- Sometimes the similarities were in location or academic background.
- Sometimes they were in commitment or motivation.
- Sometimes they were similarities in circumstances.
- Students who found similarities began interacting on a regular basis



# community conferment

- Students describe this as being like a membership card for the community of learners.
- What gained them membership into the community was being part of a long, thoughtful, threaded discussion on a subject of importance to all.
- Inclusion in this discussion was important to students because the ideas they offered were accepted by others and were considered worthy of further discussion.
- At the conclusion of the discussion, they felt personal satisfaction in their own knowledge and ability to communicate.
- They also felt a kinship with those who had participated -- like they really were part of a community.



# camaraderie

- Camaraderie is achieved after long-term and/or intense association with others involving personal communication.
- This was the highest level of community and generally was found among those students who had been through multiple classes together, had communicated outside of Lotus Notes (usually by telephone or e-mail) and, sometimes, had met each other at a summer session on campus.

