The NSE Co-Curricular Experience
The Co-curricular Engagement Taskforce (composed of counselors, faculty, and Student Development staff) has been exploring and designing a system of co-curricular activities intended to provide students connection to the Valencia learning community.

The taskforce identified types of learning communities on campus, created opportunities for students to experience clubs and organizations, and designed activities deliberately aimed to engage students with faculty and staff members. Additionally, internships, service learning, Honors, and study abroad opportunities will be embedded within the New Student Experience.

After reviewing the lesson plans of the new NSE Course, the Co-curricular Engagement Taskforce observed that there were three outcomes that were either underrepresented in the proposed lesson plans or could be enhanced by additional, intentional activities or programs at the College. For the Spring 2014 NSE pilot, the focus of the co-curricular activities was to support the Place, Personal Connection, and Purpose outcomes by having students complete the following three activities: 1) Students were to select a campus resource location to engage and learn about Place; 2) Students were to select and attend one of three workshops focused on Personal Connection; and 3) Students were to select and attend one of three workshops focused on Purpose. Upon completion of each activity, students completed a reflection paper in which they summarized their participation (or visit), described what they learned, and discussed how they will apply what they learned to their life. Students were required to complete the three written assignments as part of their course grade for the NSE Course. The assignments were signed by the workshop presenters or (in the case of a Place visit) a campus representative who is connected to the campus location.

Plans for Summer and Fall 2014 are to review results of the Spring Co-curricular pilot activities and to increase offerings of activities as the number of students enrolling in the NSE Course increases. In addition, the NSE co-curricular team will work collaboratively to develop a name and "student description" of the co-curricular program and design a strategy to recruit students.