

Mentor Messenger

A message from the peer mentor subcommittee

The peer mentor subcommittee was organized to support the needs of mentors and their coordinators. We hope that you will find the tips and information shared in this newsletter useful as you begin working with your Learning Community students. We also invite you to share tips or to make announcements.

Please send information or comments to jenl@iastate.edu.

Important Dates to Remember

- November 24-28, 2008— Thanksgiving break, classes recessed
- December 3, 2008— WinterFest; 5:00—7:00 p.m.; central campus; events are free
- December 8-12, 2008— Dead Week
- December 15-19, 2008— Finals

Highlighting Mentoring Experiences on Your Resume

Peer mentoring provides the opportunity to develop your leadership, teamwork and communication skills. While including your mentor work experience on a resume is beneficial, it is important to emphasize specific aspects of your role. According to Roger Bentley, Manager of Student and Alumni Career Services Program in the College of Engineering and former Computer and Electrical Engineering Learning Community Coordinator, above technical ability, companies are interested in your ability to deliver on professional competencies. Professional competencies include dimensions such as communication, initiative and innovation, teamwork, analysis and judgment skills.

The following are items to include in your resume:

- ◆ Show numbers to illustrate the scope of impact (how many mentees served and the timeframe of your position)

- ◆ Highlight your specific responsibilities (lab coordinator, program developer, residential activities coordinator, tutor, etc.)
- ◆ Use professional action verbs to describe your activities (initiated, developed, mentored, tutored, taught, managed, organized, etc.)
- ◆ Emphasize teamwork whenever applicable
- ◆ Illustrate your ability to deliver on results (check with your coordinator for links between your mentor responsibilities and your learning community's intended outcomes)

In addition to your academic achievements, highlighting your experience as a peer mentor should give prospective employers insight about your ability to meet the professional competencies they seek. A concise and structured resume featuring the above criteria should give you a competitive edge.

Career Services at Iowa State University

It is never too early for you and your mentees to look into career options. In order to find the best internships and careers, it is critical that you take ownership through career self-management. Career self-management includes exploring how to handle an interview, networking with professionals,

attending career fairs, and getting involved with professional organizations in your field. To learn more about career preparedness activities, we encourage you to contact your College Career Services Offices. Further information is available at: <http://www.career.iastate.edu/>.