

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 work 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 20 — Last day to add/drop a second half-semester course without extenuating circumstances
- November 20—Last day to change a second half-semester course to or from pass/not pass.
- November 23 - 27—Thanksgiving break
- December 8—End of term textbook buyback begins at University Bookstore and goes through December 19
- December 14 - 18—Final exams

Getting Your Students Involved with LC Activities

Keeping your students involved in learning community activities may be increasingly difficult as they join clubs and develop relationships with others outside the community. Active engagement can be achieved in a variety of ways. Some inventive, technology-based options include:

Developing an e-newsletter

- ◆ summarize activities/achievements over the course of the semester
- ◆ indicate plans for spring semester
- ◆ inform about pending deadlines and upcoming events

Creating a course blog

- ◆ ask students for feedback on LC
- ◆ request summaries/reflections at the end of class or events

Expanding contact via micro-blogging on Twitter

- ◆ send quick event reminders
- ◆ ask for instant feedback on class and events

Designing a digital storytelling project

- ◆ document first semester in pictures
- ◆ create videos reflecting on the transition to ISU



You Are Invited!

Learning Communities will sponsor a mini-Institute on **Friday, January 29, 2010**. The event is informal, so you need not attend for the full day. The schedule will consist of 50 minute interest sessions, in which you are invited to participate. We strongly encourage you to consider giving a presentation at the event.

Some ideas of potential presentations include:

- ◆ lessons learned through my mentor experience
 - ◆ engaging my learning community
 - ◆ common student issues in the first semester

Please ask your coordinator for further details.