

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

- February 11—
Workshop: Motivation/Goal Setting;
4:10-5:10 p.m.*
- February 12—
Workshop: Working with Large
Groups ; 7:10-8:10 p.m.*
- February 18—
Workshop: Time Management for
Study Group; 6:10- 7:10 p.m.*

* check Academic Success Center website for further details

Maintaining Learning Community Participation

After a semester of learning community participation, students may think that they have received all the benefits that a learning community can provide. While they may feel successfully connected to faculty, campus resources, and their fellow students, there is still an opportunity for the learning community to provide further support and help develop more connections.

Some suggestions for maintaining participation include:

- ◆ setting participation expectations early in the semester. This conveys the message that involvement continues to be a priority.
- ◆ asking your students for feedback on planned activities. Students may take more ownership in the activities if they are part of the planning and implementation process.
- ◆ walking to the events with your mentees. Gathering people en route to your destination can ensure that everyone arrives on time.

- ◆ selecting a couple of mentee “ambassadors” for each activity and asking for their assistance with encouraging their fellow students to attend.
- ◆ checking the university calendar to see that you are not scheduling an event at the same time as another campus activity.
- ◆ sending IM and text event reminders to your mentees.
- ◆ creating a Facebook event or advertising your activities in a place that students will see.
- ◆ making a competition for the semester where students earn points for attending events.
- ◆ educating your students about leadership and encouraging them to be involved in order to prepare for leadership roles in the future.



Academic Success Peer Educator Workshops

The Academic Success Center continues to offer several workshops related to your role as a peer mentor. The workshops are free and typically run for about one hour. Topics this spring include supporting

underprepared students, creating effective study groups, and devising questioning strategies. For more information, visit the Academic Success Educators site at <http://www.dso.iastate.edu/asc/aspe/>.