

# 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](mailto:jenl@iastate.edu).

## Important Dates to Remember

- **March 9—**  
Advising period for Summer and Fall 2009 registration begins
- **March 16–20—**  
Spring Break
- **March 23—**  
Registration period for Summer and Fall 2009 begins. Hours for AccessPlus registration are 7 a.m. to 10 p.m., Monday—Saturday
- **April 1—**  
Peer Mentor Awards Ceremony; 4:15-5 p.m.; send RSVP to [jenl@iastate.edu](mailto:jenl@iastate.edu)

## Taking Time to Reflect on Your Experience as a Peer Mentor

Reflecting on your mentoring experience is important as it allows you to put your growth as a campus leader into perspective. Understanding your strengths and recognizing challenges that you have overcome will offer insight into your professional and personal abilities. These abilities can then be clearly articulated on a resume, during interviews, and in your daily interactions with other people.

Some ways to start the reflection process include:

- ♦ writing out goals and revisiting them throughout the semester
- ♦ holding face to face interviews with students to learn what worked and what did not from their perspective
- ♦ administering a survey asking for your team members' input
- ♦ performing an exit survey in March
- ♦ writing a letter to yourself in which you recap what you have accomplished and outline future goals

- ♦ having a conversation with your Learning Community Coordinator about the skills you have acquired and what areas you can work to improve on
- ♦ engaging other peer mentors in a conversation about things they did or would like to do to compare notes
- ♦ if planning to return as a peer mentor next year, make a list of things you want to do differently



Looking back at where you started and seeing how far you have come as a peer mentor over the academic year can be beneficial. The Learning Communities Peer Mentor Resource Manual contains materials that can assist in this reflection process. For further information, please visit: <http://www.lc.iastate.edu/MentorResourceManual.doc>

## Connecting with the Next Generation of LC Peer Mentors

Sharing your experiences with future learning community peer mentors is a wonderful way to leave your mark on your learning community. Identifying things that worked and did not work can be beneficial information for future mentors. The mentor resource

manual is useful tool for compiling these strategies. You can also connect to future mentors by encouraging your current mentees to consider becoming a mentor for the learning community themselves.