

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

### Important Dates to Remember

- August 24 — Fall semester begins
- September 4 — Last day to return textbooks for a refund to the UBS.
- September 7 — University offices closed and classes recessed for the Labor Day holiday
- September 8 — “Building the Next Generation of Leaders” workshop; register by contacting [jenl@iastate.edu](mailto:jenl@iastate.edu)

## Building a Sense of Community on a Budget

Creating a sense of community for your LC students does not have to cost a lot of money. Many activities can be organized with just a few resources and a minimal amount of work.

Some low-cost ideas include the following:



**Movie night** – ask students to vote from a list of suggested titles, watch and then discuss the film. Popcorn and soda are a cheaper alternative to pizza or sandwiches, and movies can be checked-out from the Parks Library leisure collection.

**Getting to know you games** – offer a great way to build relationships among your students. The LC website at:

<http://www.lc.iastate.edu/PMhandbook.html> has a long list of fun ice-breaker activities.

**Connecting personally with your mentees** – visit, email, text, or IM your students when they arrive on campus for the fall semester. Provide them with some information about yourself (contact info, academic and personal interests, etc.) and the learning community.

**Arrange a group activity** – take your mentees on a trip through town via Cy Ride. This is a great way to introduce students to the bus system and the community. They will feel more comfortable exploring as a group their first time out.

**Campus activities** – take advantage of several already established options provided on campus. Invite your students to attend campus lectures, the free Friday flicks, activities at the Memorial Union, etc.



## University-Wide Peer Mentor Training was a Great Success!

We would like to thank the 70 peer mentors who attended our university-wide training this year! Your enthusiasm indicates that we will have a wonderful year ahead.

If you were unable to attend training, be sure to review the peer mentor handbook at: <http://www.lc.iastate.edu/PMhandbook.html>

