

Mentor Messenger

A Message from the Peer Mentor Subcommittee

The peer mentor subcommittee was organized to support the needs of mentors and their coordinators. Please feel free to submit your tips or to make announcements. Send information or comments to jenl@iastate.edu.

Important Dates to Remember

- October 17, 2007— Registration period for Spring 2008 begins. Hours for AccessPlus registration are 7 a.m. to 10 p.m., Monday-Saturday
- October 20, 2007— Fee payment deadline for fall. Final payment due
- October 20, 2007— Homecoming
- October 26, 2007— Last day to add/drop full-semester courses or withdraw without extenuating circumstances
- November 19-23, 2007— Thanksgiving break, classes recessed

Maintaining Personal Boundaries Between You and Your Mentees

By this point in the semester, you are probably getting to know your students very well. You may be talking with them about a wide variety of issues ranging from academic challenges to personal concerns.

It is important to remember to maintain your personal boundaries; it is OK to let the students know if they are crossing those boundaries. You are not a trained counselor and therefore should feel comfortable referring students to the Student Counseling

Center, the Dean of Students Office, Hall Directors or your LC coordinator whenever needed. If you encounter students who you think may harm themselves or others, it is critical to inform your LC coordinator, hall director and/or CA immediately, so they can provide the proper intervention.



While it is OK to share information with your LC coordinator, hall director or CA, conversations between yourself and your mentees should not be shared with:

- ◆ classmates,
- ◆ parents (yours or your students'),
- ◆ relatives,
- ◆ friends, or
- ◆ significant others.



If you have any questions about boundaries or confidentiality issues, please talk with your learning community coordinator.

More information about confidentiality can be found in the peer mentor handbook on the Learning Community website at <http://www.lc.iastate.edu/pmhandbook.pdf>.

Avoiding Cliques Among Learning Community Students

One of the best aspects of joining a learning community is the opportunity to get to know other students right away and to develop friendships with others who share similar interests. While the camaraderie among your mentees should be encouraged, it can also create an opportunity for cliques to develop among group members. Cliques have the potential to make other members feel left out and can make group activities more difficult to organize.

Some ways to deal with cliques include rotating seats at meetings, participating in ice-breaker activities, and asking students to introduce themselves to someone they have not talked to before.

If you see a clique forming, don't be afraid to talk about the issue. Remind your students that they are members of a community and that everyone should feel like part of the group.