

MENTOR MESSENGER

Greetings from the Peer Mentor Subcommittee

The peer mentor subcommittee is a university committee that supports peer mentors and coordinators. We provide a monthly newsletter that provides helpful hints to assist mentors and periodic updates about campus events and resources.

Mentors and coordinators have great ideas and we encourage you to submit strategies and topics that can be shared with others. Please submit article ideas or notices to kearnest@iastate.edu or call 294-6264.

Academic Calendar Events



9/2/05-Last day to return current semester text books for a full refund.

9/5/05-University Holiday

9/19/05-Schedule for Classes spring 2006 available on the Web

9/23/05 -Last day to drop a first-half semester course without extenuating circumstances.

PEER MENTORS KICK OFF FALL SEMESTER AT UDCC TRAINING SESSIONS



Two mentors get to know each other at the 2005 peer mentor training session held on August 15th-16th.

Each August peer mentors are among the first students to return to campus so that they can participate in training sessions which provide resources designed to assist them to work with learning community students.

The sessions are open to all peer mentors, but the majority of topics target first year mentors. Throughout the course of the two day event, mentors learn about the needs of first-year students, discuss strategies to promote interaction and practice interpersonal communication skills-all of which are helpful to student educators.

In addition mentors meet university personnel who provide tips for community building and share success skills.

Resource News

The **Peer Mentor Handbook** is a useful tool that is loaded with information of interest to peer mentors.

Topics and resources include such varied subjects as, what to expect from a supervisor, forming effective study groups, programming planning checklists and a calendar of common student issues by month. The handbook resulted from conversations with peer mentors and coordinators and is reviewed and revised yearly. Mentors consistently comment on the value of this resource.

Each year a hard copy of the handbook is provided to peer mentors during training, but thanks to the wonders of technology an electronic copy can be acquired by visiting the learning community website at <http://www.lc.iastate.edu/PMhandbook.html>

Tip of the Month

The peer mentor role can be a valuable learning experience for you and for others. Keep a journal of the events that occur. Journaling consistently will help you keep track of conversations you have had, and ideas that you want to pursue in more depth. It will also come in handy as you review what went well over the semester, what you'd like to do differently and what you have learned.



Best wishes for a successful year!