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.

Top 10 Ways a Leader Can Be Like a Superhero

By Kalese Henry and Nate Dobbels
First-Year Honors LC Peer Mentors

Are Superheroes leaders? Are leaders Superheroes? We say YES to both! The University Honors Program uses many techniques to train and guide their First-Year Honors Program mentors.

Top 10 Ways a Leader Can Be Like a Superhero:

1. Not only do superheroes have super physical strength, they also have strength of character. A mentor is officially a role model to the students.
2. Even superheroes have good and bad days, but superheroes do not give up. Like a superhero, mentors must exhibit the courage to persevere in any circumstance.
3. Superheroes often find themselves in situations requiring split second decisions. Things might not always go as planned, mentors must be able to think on their feet and adjust to all situations.
4. All Superheroes have a nemesis and/or problems they encounter. However, Superheroes find a way to overcome this adversity and save the day!

5. Although we hope mentors will not have to battle against the forces of evil, adversity can take many forms:
   - Late responses
   - Unenthusiastic students
   - Unexpected roadblocks

6. There is nothing wrong with being a sidekick – great leaders empower others and are not afraid to take the backseat now and then.

7. Like Superheroes, mentors should always be on the lookout for those in need.

8. The villains in life may take many forms. They are not always recognizable.

9. Even superheroes need to ask for help and need to form alliances to achieve their goals.

10. And above all, always remember, with great power comes great responsibility! What a mentor says and does really makes a difference in the lives of others.

Leaders and mentors must take charge and solve problems as they come.

We try to incorporate these ideals into the First-Year Honors Program Leaders by having trainings, retreats, weekly leadership seminars, and developing overall team cooperation.