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.

Peer Mentor Resources Available Online

Welcome to the start of a new year!

As you prepare for your new, or continued, role as a peer mentor, we encourage you to review the variety of resources available on the Learning Communities Peer Mentor Resource webpage.

Peer Mentor Handbook
Covers many topics like:
* confidentiality
* common student issues
* role challenges
* ice-breaker and team-building activities

Peer Mentor Resource Manual
Offers a template for archiving peer mentor data such as:
* job descriptions
* planning guides
* student management tools
* student evaluations

Mentor Messenger Archive
Provides helpful tips and best practices in multiple areas:
* balancing work and academic responsibilities
* communicating with your mentees
* keeping students involved in the learning community
* reminders of important academic dates

Important Dates to Remember

- August 22 — Fall Term Begins.
- September 2 — Last day to return textbooks for refund to University Book Store. Exclusions apply.
- September 5 — University Holiday; Labor Day. Offices closed, classes recessed.

2011-2012 Peer Mentor Training

The annual university-wide peer mentor training was a great success with 100 new peer mentors in attendance. This year’s sessions included presentations on:
* academic dishonesty
* biofeedback
* career services
* community building on a budget
* diversity
* needs of new students
* referrals and resources
* team-building practices

We would like to say thank you to all who attended and presented at peer mentor training this year! It was a wonderful experience!