Tips for Building Community among Your Learning Teams

Helping your students to get to know you and one another does not have to be expensive or time consuming.

Here are a few simple and quick tips for team-building:

* “Chat Room” - provide some time before or after class so students can meet and chat with one another
* “ISU After Dark” - invite your students to participate as a LC team in an event of their choice
* “Journaling” - create a set of questions to ask about your mentees likes/preferences (food, games, etc.) and refer to it when planning activities
* “Verbal Tweet” - ask students to share a piece of information about themselves within a 30 second timeframe to the larger group
* “Tuesday Night Dinners” - many students have a dining plan so suggest meeting them over a meal at the dining center
* “Study Bags” - assemble and deliver little treats (Smarties candy works great) to your students with a short handwritten note of encouragement

Ways to encourage participation

* Ask your students to suggest ideas to increase the likelihood of their participation
* Hand-deliver invitations to events
* Send reminders of upcoming events via Facebook, Twitter, Post-It notes, phone, texts, etc.

Important Dates to Remember

- September 23 — Last day to add/drop a first half-semester course without extenuating circumstances
- October 1 — Schedule of classes for Spring 2012 available for viewing on the Web
- October 14 — Mid-term; First half-semester courses end
- October 17 — Advising period for Spring 2012 registration begins

Peer Educator Workshops

The Academic Success Center offers a variety of workshops related to your peer mentor role. The sessions are free and typically last about one hour. We strongly encourage you to take advantage of these training opportunities.

Available topics this fall include:

* Conducting one-on-one academic conversations
* Leading effective study groups
* Managing time within study groups
* Preparing for public speaking
* Supporting underprepared students
* Understanding learning and study strategies

For a list of upcoming workshops, please visit:
http://new.dso.iastate.edu/asc/peered/aspe

If a particular topic interests you that is not scheduled, please contact Craig Zywicki (czywicki@iastate.edu) to learn more.

List developed from LC Coordinators

Community Building on a Budget workshop on September 2011

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.