

**IOWA STATE UNIVERSITY**



**15th Annual  
Learning Communities  
Institute**



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**Monday, May 13, 2013**

**Iowa State University  
Scheman Building**

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## Institute Schedule

**8:00 – 8:30 a.m.**

2nd Floor Lobby

**Check-in & Continental Breakfast**

**8:30 – 9:15 a.m.**

Rooms 220/230/240

**Welcome Address**

*Doug Gruenewald,*  
Co-Director of Learning Communities

**9:15 – 10:45 a.m.**

Rooms 220/230/240

**Plenary: Social Media at ISU**

*Erica Fischer,*  
Marketing and Communications Manager for the  
Office of Admissions; and  
*Amanda Ouverson,*  
Communications Specialist in the  
Office of Admissions

### *Social Media at ISU*

How is social media being utilized by the Office of Admissions?

How are our students using social media?

Erica Fischer and Amanda Ouverson will address these questions, engage a student blogger panel in the discussion, and field your social media questions during this interactive session.

**10:45 – 11:00 a.m.**

2nd Floor Lobby

**Break**

**11:00 a.m. – 12:00 p.m.**

Session A1—204-208

**Concurrent Sessions A**

### **Helping Chinese Students be Successful at Iowa State University**

*Ann Marie VanDerZanden, Director, Center for Excellence in Learning and Teaching, and Co-director, Learning Communities*

Chinese-speaking students comprise the largest single group of international undergraduates at ISU. The size of this group increased by 161% between 2007-2012. To set the stage, this presentation will describe the preparation of Chinese undergraduates before they start in American higher education. We will then explore the challenges these students face coming to Iowa State both in and out of the classroom, and how Iowa State is helping them acclimate to their new life.

Session A2—Room 262

### **Learning Communities Q & A**

*Doug Gruenewald, Co-director, Learning Communities*

Are you a new learning community coordinator? Are you thinking about starting a new learning community? Are you wondering what to do next? Looking for some suggestions? Learning communities

require a lot of time and energy that you may not have anticipated. We will discuss your needs and develop strategies for staying sane. This question-and-answer session will address a wide variety of topics based on your questions.

Session A3—Room 260

**New Ideas for Peer Mentor Training, Based on *Students Helping Students***

*Kelsey Smyth, Academic Adviser, Industrial Engineering and Undeclared Engineering; and Craig Zywicki, Program Coordinator, Academic Success Center*

Are you a new coordinator worried about how to start developing your peer mentor training? Are you a veteran coordinator looking for ways to re-energize your current training? This session will introduce you to ideas based on the *Students Helping Students* book. This resource focuses on skill development in peer mentors and provides examples of activities to use with your mentors. We will use this session to outline a training agenda, and show how to use the book in a class, for spring training, or for on-going training in the fall.

Session A4—Room 252

**Non-Traditional Students: Non-traditional learning community format**

*Bruce Allen, Academic Adviser, Liberal Arts & Sciences Student Academic Services; Darlene Fratzke, Adjunct Instructor, Apparel, Events & Hospitality Management; and David Foster, Peer Mentor, Adult, Non-Traditional Students (A.N.T.S.) Learning Community*

This session will provide a short overview of the A.N.T.S. learning community. A panel of non-traditional and adult students will share their perspective on college life, their needs, and the role A.N.T.S. has played in their time at Iowa State. Participants will engage in short, round table discussions with non-traditional students to identify possible strategies for creating a supportive learning community format.

Session A5—Room 250

**What Students Learn from Service-Learning**

*Carol Cordell, Academic Adviser, Kinesiology; and freshmen Kinesiology peer mentors*

Students in the KIN Freshmen Learning Community are required to complete a brief service-learning experience related to their career goals and write a short reflection paper afterwards. Students select from structured experiences offered by staff or create their own. Preliminary evaluation results of fall 2012 reflections will be shared as the first step in planning improvements for next year.

**12:10 – 1:00 p.m.**

**Lunch**

Rooms 220/230/240

**1:00 – 2:00 p.m.**

**Concurrent Sessions B**

Session B1—Room 250

**Anatomy of a Course Link: Connecting WOVE Communication and the Design CORE program**

*Rebecca Miller, Lecturer, English*

Over five years, English 150-250 sections linked with Design Exchange and Design Collaborative have evolved as a result of the instructor's experience with the students and subject matter and through interaction with Design faculty, who have generously permitted the instructor to attend their lectures, visit their studio classes, and participate in critiques of student projects. This history may help others target activities that will promote growth in other, newer LCs.

Session B2—Room 252

**Increasing Financial Literacy as a Piece of the Student Debt Puzzle**

*Allison Severson-Haban, Program Coordinator, Hixson Opportunity Awards Program*

Average debt for students graduating from ISU is higher than the national average, currently at about \$28,000. We have increased our efforts to achieve a higher level of financial literacy among our students, with one goal being to decrease the average student debt of our students. This session will address some of the increased efforts we have included in our first-year seminar, such as: more research on student borrowing, pre and post assessments, and a plan for individual coaching. The session will include handouts related to increasing financial literacy in your own learning community.

Session B3—Room 204-208

**Residence Life: We're More than a Pizza Party**

*Noelle Weber Strauss, Susan Presto, Jordan Baumgardner, and Stephanie Whitener, Hall Directors, Residence Life*

This session will give an overview of the work that Residence Life staff do for Iowa State students. The content will give examples of how the interactions that occur in the halls support student success as well as explore their foundation for these interactions. This will also provide examples of how Learning Communities can partner with Residence Life staff highlighting past success stories and suggestions for the future.

Session B4—Room 262

**Strengths-Based Leadership in Peer Mentor Training**

*Kurt Earnest, Academic Coordinator, Residence Life; and Jen Leptien, Program Coordinator, Learning Communities*

The Gallup Organization's StrengthsFinder assessment offers individuals an opportunity to identify and learn more about their talents and the talents of others. The text Strengths-Based Leadership takes the Strengths assessment to the next level by providing a deeper understanding of how the combination of one's strengths can define, and further develop, leadership potential. Participants in this session will learn about how Strengths-Based Leadership content can be incorporated into on-going learning community peer mentor training and supervision practices.

Session B5—Room 260

**What Our Students Have to Say: Addressing the retention and success of Multicultural Students**

*Denise Williams, Multicultural Liaison Officer for the College of Human Sciences; LeQuetia Ancar, Multicultural Liaison Officer for the College of Engineering; and Cristobal Salinas Jr., Multicultural Liaison Officer for the College of Design*

"I don't feel like I belong there." Could this quote be from a student in your Learning Community? Multicultural students make up approximately 11% of the total undergraduate student body at ISU. While this population is increasing at ISU, retention and graduation rates are lower than their majority peers. This session will prepare you to better understand and address racial dynamics in the classroom with a focus on what the students have to say.

**2:10 – 3:10 p.m.**

**Concurrent Sessions C**

Session C1—Room 204-208

**A Plan to Help Orientate Freshmen to our Learning Community**

*Chuck Achter, Lecturer, School of Education; and Preparing Tomorrow's Teachers learning community peer mentors*

We will share our plan to help our freshmen feel comfortable at ISU. We will share summer correspondence, August meetings, orientations, and what peer mentors do in small groups.

Session C2—Room 262

**Engagement Refined: Application of Gallup’s research to peer mentors and students**

*Stephanie Masta Zywicki, School of Education; and Craig Zywicki, Program Coordinator, Academic Success Center*

Gallup, the organization who brought us StrengthsQuest, also researched employee engagement. Using the Strengths-based perspective, how can we refine our traditional definitions and methods of student engagement? Participants will relate use of Strengths to student engagement, and strategize use of Strengths in our support of Peer Mentors and students. This workshop will include a brief introductory presentation and roundtable discussions. Prior knowledge of Strengths is helpful, but not required.

Session C3—Room 252

**Facilitating Use of Adaptive Coping Strategies for College Students**

*Becca Mette, Doctoral Intern, Student Counseling Service*

This presentation will outline basic coping strategies that may be helpful for college students at various levels of academic and emotional distress. This talk will include tips for Learning Community faculty and staff regarding how best to present coping strategies and how/when to make appropriate referrals.

Session C4—Room 250

**Learning Communities and the Writing & Media Center**

*Rachel Azima, Director, Writing & Media Center; and Sam von Gillern, Graduate Assistant, Writing & Media Center*

What does the Writing & Media Center do, and how can the WMC partner with Learning Communities? Join in a conversation to explore the possibilities, and learn how to implement peer workshopping effectively within Learning Communities.

Session C5—Room 260

**MAP-Works Group Results and Data Mining**

*Denise Williams, Multicultural Liaison Officer for the College of Human Sciences; Marissa Wolfe, Residence Hall Coordinator; and Stephanie Whitener, Hall Director, Residence Life*

This “hands-on” session will teach participants how to work within the MAP-Works system to access information about various groups of students and how to create lists using filters. This will give you ideas of how to use the data in the system for your department. Participants will need to bring a computer for this session in order to access the site.

**3:10 – 3:50 p.m.**

**Awards and Dessert**

Rooms 220/230/240

**Iowa State University**

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