20th Annual Learning Communities Institute

Monday, May 7, 2018

Iowa State University
Scheman Building
Institute Schedule

7:30 – 8:00 a.m. Check-in & Continental Breakfast
2nd Floor Lobby

8:00 – 10:00 a.m. Welcome and Plenary Address: ISU LC Visioning Café
Rooms 220/230/240
Jen Leptien, Director of Learning Communities
Steve Mickelson, Department Chair and Professor, Agricultural and Biosystems Engineering

Join us as we share a brief history of the LC program, analysis of where we are today, and then engage in dialogue around building the future of the Learning Communities program. Through dynamic café-style conversations, we will explore how we can all contribute to the next generation of LCs—Learning Communities 2.0!

10:00 – 10:10 a.m. Break
2nd Floor Lobby

10:10 a.m. – 11:00 a.m. Concurrent Sessions A

Session A1—Room 204-208
Crafting Measurable Learning Objectives
Matt Pistilli, Director, Student Affairs Assessment & Research
In today’s environment, it is imperative that we can demonstrate what students are gaining as a result of interacting with us. This session will guide participants through writing learning objectives for their programs. Attendees are encouraged to bring one or more programs they currently deliver with them to the session for which learning objectives can be created or edited during this interactive, hands-on session.

Session A2—260
Faculty/Staff Green Dot Overview
Jazzmine Brooks, Violence Prevention and Green Dot Coordinator, Student Wellness
The faculty/staff Green Dot overview introduces the basic elements of Green Dot, focusing specifically on the vital role campus employees plan in establishing and reinforcing the culture within which students exist. The basic elements of the presentation are used to provide a new framework of bystander intervention, generate campus-wide buy-in, and begin the process of behavioral change. This presentation is open to any faculty/staff group on campus.

Session A3—Room 250
Invest in Yourself – Invest in Your Community: Engaging in multicultural work in higher education
Jenn Plagman-Galvin, Director of Operations, Human Sciences Administration
Student affairs educators, faculty, and higher education administrators are integral to meet the needs of today’s increasingly diverse student population, especially supporting the student success of underrepresented students and developing the multicultural competence of all students. Explore ways to develop your own multicultural awareness, knowledge and skills; and how to apply these competencies to your work in higher education.

Session A4—Room 252
Mindset about Intelligence and Connections to Student Effort: Opportunities for enhanced learning
Jan Thompson, Morrill Professor, Natural Resource Ecology and Management
Students’ “self-theories” about their intelligence can affect their motivations to learn and influence their levels of academic achievement. This workshop will engage participants in (1) learning about the
concept of “Growth Mindset,” (2) exploring the link between Mindset and effort, and (3) discussing methods that students can use to monitor their own effort and achievement. Learning Community leaders can use brief interventions on mindset and effort to increase students’ awareness of how they learn and provide opportunities for students to identify specific strategies that lead to more effective learning and improved academic performance.

11:10 a.m. – 12:00 p.m. Concurrent Sessions B

Session B1—Room 204-208
Actually Measuring Learning Objectives
Matt Pistilli, Director, Student Affairs Assessment & Research
Once measureable learning objectives have been created, the task turns to collecting data to determine the extent to which they were achieved. As a follow-up to the session Crafting Measurable Learning Objectives, participants will take the objectives they created in the first session and build out assessment measures and/or questions that will show if students learned from the experience created for them. Attendees are encouraged to come to the first session, but can bring learning objectives from their program(s) that were created elsewhere for use during this interactive, hands-on session.

Session B2—Room 252
Co-Curricular Transcripts: Build your experience, tell your story.
Tim Reuter, Student Organizations Resource Coordinator; and Kevin Merrill, Assistant Director of Student Organizations, Leadership & Service
The Co-Curricular Transcript (CCT) is a customizable record of students’ involvement at Iowa State. Through this tool, students can highlight their involvement and achievements to employers, internship providers, graduate schools, and scholarship selection committees. In this session, we will walk you through how the system functions and how to create verified entries for your learning community participants and peer mentors. In addition, we will demonstrate how students can create customized Co-Curricular Transcripts that will help them showcase their previous experience as they advance through Iowa State and beyond!

Session B3—Room 250
Do I have to? :-) Facilitating difficult conversations with Peer Mentors
Kipp Van Dyke, Assistant Dean and Director of Student Assistance
Sometimes things will not go as planned and you’ll need to talk with Peer Mentors about how they are approaching situations, their own performance, and general guidance on doing their work. These conversations can be challenging. This session will discuss some of the types of situations you may encounter, strategies to utilize to address the situations, and how to do this in a way that is sensitive to individual needs and development of Peer Mentors.

Session B4—Room 260
International students in LCs - Best practices discussion
Suzanne Härle, International Student Support Adviser, College of Liberal Arts & Sciences and University-Wide International Learning Community Coordinator; and Keni Zenner, Graduate Student, School of Education
In this session, we will share themes of the work accomplished this year in the University-wide International LC Coordinator position including results from the assessment conducted with fall 2017 LC participants and non-participants. As a result of this assessment and other experiences we will provide an overview of best practices for recruiting and engaging international students in the LC experience. This will be a discussion based session that calls upon participants to help develop ideas of how to continually engage international students in the LC experience.
12:00 – 12:50 p.m.  Lunch and Keynote
Rooms 220/230/240
Moving the Needle: What we know about success for underrepresented students

1:00 – 1:50 p.m.  Concurrent Sessions C

Session C1—Room 250
Helping Student Employees Understand Their Role in Creating a Welcoming Space
Mindy Heggen, Program Coordinator, Office of the Registrar
Fall 2017, I decided to take Iowa State University's Principles of Community and create a student employee professional development series. Our student employees are professionals in the workplace and need tools to be a successful employee; but they also witness discrimination first hand in classes, across campus, and in their communities. The thought is, if I take one principle each semester and help our student employees understand what each principle means to them, what small changes can be made, and the impact that they can make; then they can grow and share this information with their spheres of influence. This session will discuss what I created in the spring and fall this year, the feedback I received, and lessons that I learned.

Session C2—Room 204-208
Learning Communities and Student Wellness
Brian Vanderheyden, Student Wellness Manager, Student Wellness
After nearly two years of building the Student Wellness department, many wellness initiatives and opportunities are in place. Learn how Student Wellness can support your students during the 18-19 academic year. ISU student wellbeing is critical to their academic success. The remainder of our time together will be reserved for answering questions and exploring any ideas for potential partnerships between the Learning Communities and Student Wellness.

Session C3—Room 260
Pre-Class Learning Modules for Learning Communities
Lisa Phillips and Kyle Holtman, Academic Advisers, Kinesiology
Join us for a discussion about how to use learning modules in your learning community. The presenters will share examples of how pre-class learning modules were used in the Kinesiology Freshman Learning Community in an effort to increase student learning and allow for students to spend more time connecting with Peer Mentors during class. The discussion will include a structure of the learning module format, examples of topics covered, and information about the effectiveness of the model based on student feedback. The presenters will give suggestions for improvement in the future and also lead a discussion about how to adapt the learning module structure to the unique needs of other learning communities.

Session C4—Room 252
Q & A: What we know about success for underrepresented students
Matt Pistilli, Director, Student Affairs Assessment & Research
This session will be an opportunity to dive deeper into the conversation around how Iowa State University is addressing the need to close the achievement gap.
2:00 – 2:50 p.m.  

Concurrent Sessions D

Session D1—Room 250

Collaborate for Discovery with Special Collections and University Archives
Rachael Acheson, Assistant University Archivist; Amy Bishop, Rare Books and Manuscripts Archivist; and Rachel Seale, Outreach Archivist, Special Collections & University Archives

Discover how your Learning Community can collaborate with Special Collections & University Archives! During this interactive session, archivists will lead participants through an activity using materials from our collections, modelling the types of hands-on activities that we can do with Learning Communities from across disciplines. We will also discuss the variety of ways we can support Learning Communities and their coordinators, including archival instruction or activity sessions, assignment brainstorming, and creative ways to document student experiences at ISU.

Session D2—Room 204-208

Incorporating ISU’s Principles of Community into Your Peer Mentor Curriculum
Nicole Bartolozzi, Assistant Director; Bernice Real, and Seth Schroeder, Graduate Students, Hixson Opportunity Awards

This session will give insight into how the Hixson Opportunity Awards program incorporated the Principles of Community into their Peer Mentor Leadership Development Course. In addition to providing information on further implementation into the Hixson First Year Seminar.

Session D3—Room 260

Innovative Ideas for Your Learning Community
Join us as we share ideas for enhancing the learning community experience. Topics and presenters include: Using Canvas in Your Learning Community with Erin Gibson, Academic Adviser in Industrial Engineering; An Awesome Service-Learning Experience with Dawn Fiihr and Liz Harris, Academic Advisers in Apparel, Events & Hospitality Management; and the OnStage! Performing Arts Series mini-grant program with Paul Ferrone, Development Manager, and Sara Compton, Outreach Manager, Iowa State Center.

Session D4—Room 252

“We all do better when we all do better.” – Best Practices in Advising and Serving First Generation College Students in Higher Education
Carolyn Duven and Katie Flannery, Cyclone Success Coaches, Academic Success Center

During this session, Cyclone Success Coaches, Carolyn Duven and Katie Flannery, will present both research based best practices and student narratives from their work with a cohort of approximately 600 first generation college students at Iowa State University over the past two academic years. This session is designed to help participants think critically about the best ways to structure their learning communities and peer mentoring programs in order to facilitate the development of institutional knowledge and support networks for their first generation students.

2:50– 3:45 p.m.  

Awards and Dessert
Rooms 220/230/240
Schedule at a Glance

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   2nd Floor Lobby

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   Session A2  Faculty/Staff Green Dot Overview  Room 260
   Session A3  Invest in Yourself – Invest in Your Community: Engaging in multicultural work in higher education  Room 250
   Session A4  Mindset about Intelligence and Connections to Student Effort: Opportunities for enhanced learning  Room 252

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   Session B2  Co-Curricular Transcripts: Building your experience, tell your story  Room 252
   Session B3  Do I Have to? :-/ Facilitating difficult conversations with Peer Mentors  Room 250
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