24th Annual Learning Communities Institute

Monday, May 16, 2022

Iowa State University
Scheman Building
Institute Schedule

8:00 – 8:30 am  Check-in & Continental Breakfast  2nd Floor Lobby

8:30 – 9:00 am  Welcome  Rooms 220/230/240

Jen Leptien, Director of Learning Communities
Kyle Holtman, Assistant Director of Learning Communities
Welcoming remarks and opening activity

9:00 – 10:15 am  Keynote — The Promise of High-Impact Practices: Advancing Quality and Equity in Learning Communities

Dr. Jillian Kinzie, Interim Co-Director of the National Survey of Student Engagement (NSSE), Center for Postsecondary Research, Indiana University

High-Impact Practices (HIPs), such as undergraduate research, service-learning, internships, and learning communities, represent experiences positively associated with student learning and success. Yet, implementation matters more than the label. This session shares recent findings exploring dimensions of quality in learning communities, including considerations for student subgroups, and for the development of sense of belonging in the first year of college. Discussion will focus on approaches to assess and design more effective and equitable experiences.

Jillian Kinzie, Ph.D. is Interim Co-Director of the National Survey of Student Engagement (NSSE) at the Center for Postsecondary Research, Indiana University School of Education. She conducts research and leads project activities on the effective use of student engagement data to improve educational quality and issues of teaching and learning, and serves as senior scholar with the National Institute for Learning Outcomes Assessment (NILOA) project. She is co-author of Assessment in Student Affairs (2016); Using Evidence of Student Learning to Improve Higher Education (2015); One Size Does not Fit All: Traditional and Innovative Models of Student Affairs Practice, Second Edition (2014), and Student Success in College (2005/2010). She is currently PI on the Lumina Foundation funded “Assessing Quality and Equity in HIPs”; a Strada Foundation study, “Learning about Undergraduates' Preparation for Work and Careers” an assessment of college students career and workforce preparation, and an NSF supported project studying the implementation of scaffolded research-rich curriculum in STEM fields. She is excited about a forthcoming co-edited book, Delivering on the Promise of HIPs: Research and Models for Achieving Equity, Fidelity, Impact and Scale (2022).

10:15 – 10:30 am  Break  2nd Floor Lobby

10:30 – 11:45 am  Workshop — Enhancing Quality and Equity in Learning Communities  Rooms 220/230/240

Dr. Jillian Kinzie

The workshop will extend the findings presented in the keynote and provide participants opportunities to apply HIP quality dimensions to ISU learning communities and interrogate equity concerns. We’ll consider current research about the importance of sense of belonging in the first college year and focus on assessing learning outcomes and related ISU learning community goals.
12:00 – 12:50 pm  Lunch & Resource Fair  Rooms 220/230/240 & 2nd Floor Lobby
Beginning at 12:30, join us in the second floor lobby for a resource fair. Several
campus partners will be available to provide an overview of their services, answer
questions, and discuss how they can work with you to support students and
enhance your learning community.

1:00 pm – 1:50 pm  Concurrent Sessions A

Session A1—Room 204-208
Student Mental Health and Wellbeing: Data, Strategies, and How Campus Can Help
Erin Baldwin, Associate Vice President for Student Health and Wellness and Director, Thielen Student Health
Center; Mike Giles, Director, Recreation Services; Kristen Sievert, Director, Student Counseling Services; Brian
Vanderheyden, Director, Student Wellness
The Directors of the Student Health and Wellness Unit will share recent data about student wellbeing and how
faculty and staff can engage in strategies to improve student wellbeing inside and outside the classroom.
Session focus: Assessment, Common student issues, Faculty involvement, Special populations

Session A2—Room 250
Mapping the Learning Networks in your Community
Rachel Smith, Assistant Professor, School of Education; Jennifer Tipton, Research Assistant, School of Education
How do students’ relationship patterns within communities change over time? Learning communities rely on
relationship building, and thinking about communities as networks allows you to visualize the relational structure of
your learning community and conceptualize community construction in new ways. We will use examples from a
study of learning communities for students exploring majors to introduce you to social network analysis as a way to
trace community development and outcomes.
Session focus: Assessment, Student engagement

Session A3—Room 252
What’s the Point? Adding Value to the Peer Mentor Experience through Career Readiness Competencies
Rhaechel Ohge Fritz, Academic Advisor, Ivy College of Business; Jason Vlastaras, Associate Director for Program
Operations, Recreation Services; Emily Wilcox, Assistant Director for First-Year Programs, University Honors
Program
Are your peer mentors connecting their job responsibilities and experiences to marketable skills? Join us as we
discuss the implementation of career readiness competencies, comparing three separate campus areas at various
stages in their adoption of the ISU Career Ready framework. Attendees are asked to bring their Peer Mentor
position descriptions for fun, hands-on activities. Attendees will leave with a tool kit full of LC-specific career
readiness resources.
Session focus: Assessment, Curriculum, Faculty involvement, Lessons learned, Peer mentor training and
supervision, Promising practices

Session A4—Room 260
Learning About Identity in Community
Jordan Brooks, Director of Equity, Inclusion, and Multicultural Student Services, College of Design; Marwa Elkashif
and Angeline Neo, Graduate Students, College of Design
Discussion around identity is often “I” or individually focused. We’ll share our experiences facilitating development
from the perspective, “I am, because we are.” Identity, though personal, is a communal phenomena which can
have a powerful impact on student belonging when explored in a learning community.
Session focus: Curriculum, Peer mentor training and supervision, Promising practices, Special populations,
Student engagement
Session A5—Room 262

**Engaging Learning Community Assignments**
Whitney Baker, Academic Advisor, Psychology; Lindsay Frueh, Academic Advisor, and Ben McCarty, Student Services Specialist, Agricultural and Biosystems Engineering

Join in discussion with two different learning communities on ways we engage our students through assignments to build community, develop their network of support, and how to succeed as a student. Presenters include LC coordinators representing transfer and first-year learning communities.

**Session focus:** Curriculum, Faculty involvement, Special populations, Student engagement

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**2:00 – 2:50 pm  Concurrent Sessions B**

Session B1—Room 204-208

**Principles of Community**
Kirsten Hauge and Aliza MacKenzie, Academic Advisors, Mechanical Engineering; Elizabeth Medina and Stacey Wertzberger, Academic Advisors, Apparel, Events, and Hospitality Management

Attendees at this session will hear about best practices for incorporating activities around the ISU Principles of Community, diversity, and inclusion into their learning community. Hear from Learning Community Coordinators about how they have embraced the Principles of Community and actively involved their students in learning about what makes ISU so great!

**Session focus:** Co-curricular activities, Principles of Community, Promising practices

Session B2—Room 250

**Simple Career Exploration Strategies and Tools Anyone Can Use**
Dawn Walker Chalmers, Change Specialist, Information Technology Services

The objective of this session is to provide learning community teams with practical tools that support students' social mobility and career trajectories. At the conclusion of the session, learning community teams will have an understanding of how to use ONetOnline.org for everything from writing specific résumé bullet points to exploring possible career avenues. Come explore strategies for how to tailor students’ academic journeys and résumés to potential career outcomes.

**Session focus:** Curriculum, Promising practices

Session B3—Room 252

**Promising Practices in Learning Community Curriculum to Support Students’ Wellbeing: Texts, Time Management, and To-do Lists**
Cinzia Cervato, Morrill Professor, and Dave Flory, Teaching Professor, Geological and Atmospheric Sciences; Brenna Dixon, Associate Teaching Professor, English; Karen Scheel, Teaching Professor, Psychology

This presentation will introduce innovative curricular practices designed to help learning community students manage stressors, build community, and thrive in college. Through calendaring, creation and management of to-do lists, intentional activities, and common readings that apply positive psychology, such as Lerner and Schlechter’s *U Thrive: How to Succeed in College and Life*, students are supported in navigating their learning and wellbeing in and out of the classroom.

**Session focus:** Curriculum, Promising practices

Session B4—Room 260

**Promising Practices in Student, Faculty, and Alumni Engagement**
LeQuetia Ancar, Assistant Director of Student Services and Director of Multicultural Student Success, College of Engineering; Amy Brandau, Academic Advisor, Economics; Eric Underbakke, Assistant Professor, Biochemistry, Biophysics, and Molecular Biology

Coordinators of the Agricultural Business Transfer, Leadership Through Engineering Academic Diversity (LEAD), and Biochemistry & Biophysics learning communities will share experiences in developing promising practices for
enhancing learning community engagement with transfer students, faculty, and alumni. Lessons learned and highlights of successful engagement strategies and activities will be shared.

Session focus: Faculty involvement, Lessons learned, Promising practices, Special populations, Student engagement

Session B5—Room 262
Assessment-Building Made Simpler with the Question Repository
Sarah Wehner, Academic Advisor, Biology
The Learning Communities Evaluation Tools Question Repository is a new tool developed to aid in the creation of learning community-specific assessments. This workshop will involve reviewing proposed learning outcomes, learning to use the Repository filter function, and selecting assessment questions that relate outcomes to learning community activities and events. Participants will need a laptop and a copy of their 2022-2023 Learning Community Request for Proposal (RFP).

Session focus: Assessment

3:00 – 3:45 pm Awards and Dessert

Iowa State University’s Principles of Community

Respect: We seek to foster an open-minded understanding among individuals, organizations and groups. We support this understanding through outreach, increasing opportunities for collaboration, formal education programs and strategies for resolving disagreement.

Purpose: We are encouraged to be engaged in the university community. Thus, we strive to build a genuine community that promotes the advancement of knowledge, cooperation and leadership.

Cooperation: We recognize that the mission of the university is enhanced when we work together to achieve our goals. Therefore, we value each member of the Iowa State University community for their insights and efforts, collective and individual, to enhance the quality of campus life.

Richness of Diversity: We recognize and cherish the richness of diversity in our university experience. Furthermore, we strive to increase the diversity of ideas, cultures and experiences throughout the university community.

Freedom from discrimination: We recognize that we must strive to overcome historical and divisive biases in our society. Therefore, we commit ourselves to create and maintain a community in which all students, staff, faculty and administrators can work together in an atmosphere free from discrimination, and to respond appropriately to all acts of discrimination.

Honest and respectful expression of ideas: We affirm the right to and the importance of a free exchange of ideas at Iowa State University within the bounds of courtesy, sensitivity and respect. We work together to promote awareness of various ideas through education and constructive strategies to consider and engage in honest disagreements.
Schedule at a Glance

8:00 – 8:30 am  Check-in & Continental Breakfast  2nd Floor Lobby

8:30 – 9:00 am  Welcome  Rooms 220/230/240

9:00 – 10:15 am  Keynote  Rooms 220/230/240

The Promise of High-Impact Practices: Advancing Quality and Equity in Learning Communities

10:15 – 10:30 am  Break  2nd Floor Lobby

10:30 – 11:45 am  Workshop  Rooms 220/230/240

Enhancing Quality and Equity in Learning Communities

12:00 – 12:50 pm  Lunch  Rooms 220/230/240

12:30 – 12:50 pm  Resource Fair  2nd Floor Lobby

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Session A1  Student Mental Health and Wellbeing: Data, Strategies, and How Campus Can Help  Room 204-208
Session A2  Mapping the Learning Networks in your Community  Room 250
Session A3  What’s the Point? Adding Value to the Peer Mentor Experience through Career Readiness Competencies  Room 252
Session A4  Learning About Identity in Community  Room 260
Session A5  Engaging Learning Community Assignments  Room 262

2:00 – 2:50 pm  Concurrent Sessions B

Session B1  Principles of Community  Room 204-208
Session B2  Simple Career Exploration Strategies and Tools Anyone Can Use  Room 250
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Session B5  Assessment-Building Made Simpler with the Question Repository  Room 262

3:00 – 3:45 pm  Awards and Dessert  Rooms 220/230/240

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