

20-21 Learning Communities Annual Report

WHO WE ARE

The Learning Community program enhances undergraduates' experience by providing interested students with dynamic, focused communities in which students, staff, and faculty can learn and grow together.



600+ Peer Mentors

Provide leadership within Learning Communities across campus



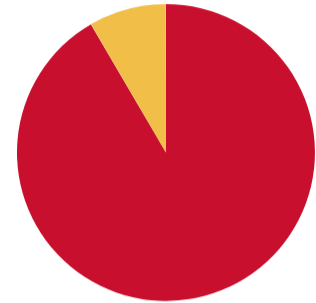
120+ Faculty & Staff Coordinators

With a combined average of 7+ years of coordinating experience



93 Learning Communities

Including 7 New LCs: Advertising and Public Relations, AMD Transitions, Criminal Justice League, Data Science, Environmental Engineering, International Adventure, The Science of Language



91.6% of first-year students are in an LC

QUICK FACTS

Since this grassroots effort began in 1995, Learning Communities have expanded from 12 options, serving 400 students, to now offering 93 distinct programs, serving nearly 5,800 undergraduate students annually.

Participation:



91.7 % of first-year students of color
90% of new direct-from-high school international student participants
45% of new transfer students

Total number of students in a fall 2020 LC

5,787



First-year, full-time participation has increased 31% since 2015

Benefits:

Students have the opportunity to take classes together, interact with faculty, staff, and peer mentors, engage in out of class activities, explore careers, participate in community service, make new friends, and in some cases, live together.

Average one-year retention rate for LC students: 7% higher than non-LC students

7%

Average 6-year graduation rate for LC students: 11% higher than non-LC students

11%

PEER MENTOR SURVEY RESULTS

95%

Students agreed their peer mentor was helpful

97%

Students agreed their peer mentor was knowledgeable about university resources

82%

Students agreed their peer mentor demonstrated concern about their academic success

"Having a peer mentor has made the transition to Iowa State much easier. Knowing that I have so many people to reach out to has made me feel that I have a support system behind me that wants me to succeed and grow both personally and collegiately."

"[My peer mentor] has been super helpful in assisting with classes and just being a friend when it's been hard to meet people and become friends through the online community."

89%

of students were satisfied with their LC experience

PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT

Coordinators

- 58 LC Coordinators participated in 27 professional development offerings
- LC Early Career Professional Development Series
 - 18 unique participant
 - 7 sessions offered
- Mid-Year Institute Series offered 7 sessions throughout the spring semester
- 114 participants attended the 2021 LC Institute, featuring national leader in diversity, equity, and inclusion, Dr. Tia Brown-McNair

Peer Mentors

- 220+ new peer mentors registered for the two-day university-wide training covering topics from effective communication to diversity, equity, and inclusion
- A Canvas Peer Mentor Resources organization was created to support peer mentors
 - 10 modules covering various topics about campus resources and building community
- Peer Mentor Appreciation Week:
 - 71 appreciation event attendees
 - 39 thank you messages from coordinators

LC COMMITTEES

Peer Mentor

- Sponsored Peer Mentor Appreciation Week
- Provided a comprehensive review of the Peer Mentor Canvas course
- Reviewed Career Readiness Survey results for peer mentors and identified potential training topics

Committee Members: Katie Shields, Nicole Bartolozzi, Janessa Boley, Autumn Cartagena, Mindy Cooper, Nate Dobbels, Alicia Edwards, Shannon Grundmeier, Michale Hansen, Kyle Holtman, Clayton Johnson, Wonjae Kim, Aliza MacKenzie, Ben McCarty, Heather Robinson, and Emily Wilcox

Special thanks to all our committee members for their hard work!

Assessment

- Designed and implemented a coordinator engagement survey
- Collected LC activity evaluation tools to create a repository
- Sponsored an LC Institute session on LC activities assessment
- Discussed *Real-Time Student Assessment* by Peggy Maki

Committee Members: Jen Leptien, Patrick Determan, Kurt Earnest, Kyle Holtman, Clayton Johnson, Ben McCarty, Tony Moore, Matt Pistilli, Tina Prouty, Rachel Smith, and Sarah Wehner

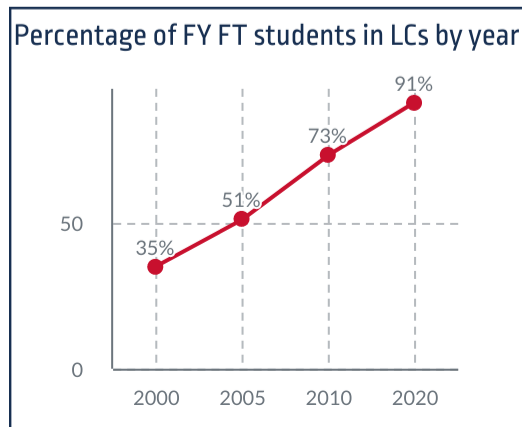
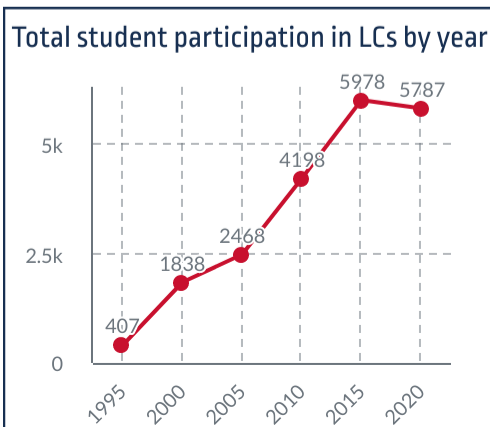
Curriculum

- Sponsored an LC Institute session on promising practices in diversity, equity, and inclusion in curriculum and programming
- Discussed *From Equity Talk to Equity Walk* by T. McNair et al.
- Developed a teaching and learning circle for implementation in fall 2021
- Advised about implementation of quality aspects of high impact practices in learning communities

Committee Members: Steve Freeman, Cinzia Cervato, Clark Coffman, Brenna Dixon, Dave Flory, Jen Leptien, and Karen Scheel

25th ANNIVERSARY

25th
Anniversary
Video
Click Here!



92,843
Students have participated in LCs since 1995

