

## ANNUAL REPORT

## 2021 - 2022

### 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**

providing leadership within learning communities across campus

▶ **110 Faculty & Staff Coordinators**

with a combined average of 7+ years of coordinating experience

▶ **91 Learning Communities**

including 21 LCs with a residential (live-in) option



First-year, full-time student participation has increased **20.9%** since 2016

### Participation

**89.7%** of first-year students of color

**88.6%** of first-year, first-generation students

**78.7%** of first-year international students

**57.6%** of new international transfer students

**6,181** total LC participants

### Benefits

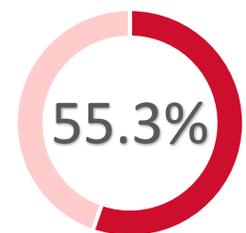
Students have the opportunity to take classes together; interact with faculty, staff, and peer mentors; engage in out-of-class activities; explore careers; participate in community service; make new friends; and in some cases, live together.

**7%** Average one-year retention rate for LC students since 1998: **7% higher** than non-LC students

**11%** Average six-year graduation rate for LC students since 1998: **11% higher** than non-LC students



percentage of first-year students in an LC



percentage of new transfer students in an LC

### Peer Mentor Survey Highlights

The **Peer Mentor Survey** takes place during weeks 6-8 of the fall semester. This survey is designed to gather feedback from LC participants about their interactions with peer mentors during the first half of the semester. Total responses: **2,996**

**96%**

Percentage of students who agreed or strongly agreed their peer mentor provides them with useful information

**95%**

Percentage of students who agreed or strongly agreed their peer mentor is knowledgeable about university resources

**91%**

Percentage of students who agreed or strongly agreed their peer mentor facilitates interactions among LC participants

"My peer mentor has been helpful with my transition to college. He has provided me with resources, knowledge, and support. By helping us connect to other members of our [learning community], he has helped us create friendships."

"I feel like I have grown comfortable with communicating in larger classes due to our small group meetings. My peer mentor created a safe and inviting space to speak freely, which helped me in other classrooms."

**95%**

Of participants agreed or strongly agreed their peer mentor has been helpful

# Professional Development

## Opportunities for Faculty and Staff



- ▶ **53** LC coordinators participated in **18** professional development offerings
- ▶ LC Early Career Professional Development Series
  - **15** participants attended one or more of the **7** sessions offered
  - **8** participants attended 4 or more sessions
- ▶ **73** participants attended the Mid-Year Institute in February
- ▶ **104** participants attended the Annual Learning Communities Institute in May, which featured a keynote presentation on advancing quality and equity in high-impact practices (HIPs) from Dr. Jillian Kinzie from the Center for Postsecondary Research and the NSSE Institute

## Opportunities for Peer Mentors



- ▶ **185** new peer mentors attended the two-day university-wide training in August
- ▶ All peer mentors were enrolled in the Peer Mentor Resources and Development Canvas organization, which included **10** modules covering campus resources, community building, the ISU Principles of Community, and more
- ▶ Peer Mentor Appreciation Week (April 25-29, 2022)
  - **127** appreciation event attendees
  - **44** thank you messages from LC coordinators
  - **94** peer mentors received thank you notes from **174** mentees

## Fall Semester Activities

In the first 8 weeks of the fall semester, learning communities provided:

-  in-class faculty engagement activities: **158**
-  career preparation activities: **78**
-  student reflections: **173**
-  social activities: **168**
-  academic success presentations: **116**
-  study group or exam preparation sessions: **158**

## Year-end Summary

Throughout the 2021-2022 academic year, the following components were offered by the **69** learning communities that completed the Annual Report form:

- 18** provided service-learning or community service
- 56** provided campus resource presentations
- 37** provided field trips or industry tours
- 64** provided a single-semester or full-year seminar
- 45** provided career fair preparation
- 34** provided exposure to undergraduate research

## LC Committees

**34 individuals** dedicated time to enhance the LC experience through committee work during the 2021-2022 academic year.

### LC Advisory Committee

These committee members provide insight, serve as program ambassadors and advocates, and work collaboratively toward continuous enhancements of ISU Learning Communities

**Members:** Mary Baumann, Malinda Cooper, Brenna Dixon, Sarah DuBois, Kurt Earnest, Stephanie Hamilton, Kyle Holtman, Clayton Johnson, Joel Johnson, Jen Leptien, Aliza MacKenzie, Greer Potadle, Allison Severson, Howard Tyler, Kathy Weaver, Denise Williams-Klotz

### Assessment

- Incorporated the Quality Aspects of High-Impact Practices into the 22-223 Annual Report and adapted the Kinzie et al. (2021) [HIPs in Practice Survey](#) for use with ISU LCs in spring 2023

- Examined student learning outcomes submitted in 22-23 RFPs and developed a list of strong examples to be shared within LCs

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

### Curriculum & Faculty Development

- Administered 2022 LC Awards
- Sponsored LC Institute session on promising practices in LC curriculum to support students' wellbeing
- Reviewed and approved examples of quality aspects of high-impact practices within ISU LCs

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

### Peer Mentor

- Planned and hosted Peer Mentor Appreciation Week
- Provided strategies and resources for incorporating Career Readiness Competencies into the peer mentor position
- Proposed new ideas for ongoing peer mentor training opportunities

**Members:** Nicole Bartolozzi, Nate Dobbels, Kyle Holtman, Aiden Jones, Aliza MacKenzie, Jessie Neal, Rhaechel Ohge Fritz, Lisa Phillips, Emily Wilcox