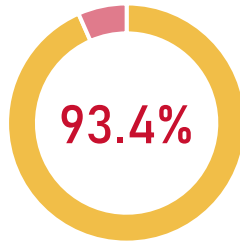


# Learning Communities Annual Report

2022-2023

## 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.



of first-year students in an LC

- 600+ peer mentors
- 102 faculty & staff coordinators  
With a combined average of 7 years of coordinating experience
- 84 learning communities  
Including 21 LCs with a residential (live-in) option

➔ 6,480 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.

## 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: 3,156

93%

of students agree or strongly agree their peer mentor facilitates interactions among LC participants

96%

of students agree or strongly agree their peer mentor is knowledgeable about university resources

92%

of students agree or strongly agree their peer mentor is skilled at facilitating discussions

## Participation

- 93.2% of first-year students of color
- 91.1% of first-year, first-generation students
- 84.4% of first-year international students
- 50.6% of new transfer students in an LC



Having a peer mentor for [this course] has been beneficial to me, because it has made me feel better and more comfortable with the fact that I am not yet certain about what career or major I would like to pursue. **Knowing that I am not alone in that process is very reassuring.**



[My peer mentor] has been very welcoming and honestly such a safe place for me on campus... I also just really enjoy the safe and homey feeling that she projects... She is overall amazing and has really made my adjustment to Iowa State so much better. I wouldn't be where I am right now if she wasn't my mentor.



@iastatelc

## Professional Development



### Professional Development for Coordinators:

- ✓ **53** LC coordinators participated in **23** professional development offerings throughout the year
- ✓ LC Early Career Professional Development Series
  - 20** participants attended one or more of the **7** sessions offered
  - 13** participants attended **3 or more** sessions
- ✓ **69** participants attended the Mid-Year Institute in January, including **23** peer mentors
- ✓ **106** participants attended the Annual LC Institute in May, which focused on developing and supporting a sense of belonging for students in learning communities

### Professional Development for Peer Mentors:

- ✓ **167** new peer mentors attended the two-day university-wide training in August
- ✓ All peer mentors were enrolled in the Peer Mentor Development and Resources Canvas organization, which included **10** modules covering campus resources, community building, the ISU Principles of Community, and more
- ✓ Peer Mentor Appreciation Week (April 24-28, 2023)
  - 86** appreciation event attendees
  - 53** thank you messages from LC coordinators
  - 78** peer mentors received thank you notes from **128** mentees

## Fall Semester Activities

In the first 12 weeks of the fall semester, learning communities provided:

- + **252** faculty engagement activities
- + **71** on- and off-campus field trips/industry tours
- + **17** cultural experiences
- + **119** academic success presentations
- + **218** social activities
- + **259** study group or exam preparation sessions

**87%** of peer mentors had 1:1 in-person meetings with students during this time

## Year-End Summary

Throughout the 2022-2023 academic year, the 62 learning communities that completed the Annual Report form provided:

- + **18** service-learning or community service projects
- + **53** campus resource presentations
- + **33** field trips or industry tours
- + **61** single-semester or full-year seminars
- + **25** alumni engagement opportunities
- + **34** exposure opportunities to undergraduate research

## LC Committees

35 individuals dedicated time to enhance the LC experience through committee work during the 2022-2023 academic year.

### LC Advisory Committee

- + Provide insight, serve as program ambassadors, and work collaboratively toward continuous advancement of ISU Learning Communities

**Members:** Clark Coffman, Mindy Cooper, Brenna Dixon, Sarah DuBois, Kurt Earnest, Kelsey Gillen, Stephanie Hamilton, Clayton Johnson, Christina Moore, Greer Potadle, Shawna Saad, Allison Severson, Denise Timberland, Howard Tyler, Kathy Weaver, Emily Wilcox, Denise Williams-Klotz, Johna Wolfe

### Assessment

- + Created student learning outcomes sample document
- + Reviewed assessment workbook content and resources

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

### Curriculum & Faculty Development

- + Developed a new LC Faculty Engagement Award
- + Sponsored College Belonging book circle

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

### Peer Mentor

- + Created peer mentor activity facilitation guides
- + Planned and hosted Peer Mentor Appreciation Week

**Members:** Heidi Ackerman, Sahira Garcia, Aliza MacKenzie, Emily Meeks, Rhaechel Ohge Fritz, Emily Wilcox