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.

Participation

- **93.2%** first-year students of color
- **92.7%** first-year, first-generation students
- **91.4%** first-year international students
- **49.5%** of new transfer students

**93.4%** of first-year students in an LC

**6,518** total LC participants

Benefits

Students can take classes together, interact with faculty, staff, and peer mentors; engage in activities outside of class; explore careers, and sometimes live together. Since 1998, LC students have shown a **7%** higher average one-year retention rate and a **10%** higher average six-year graduation rate compared to non-LC students.

Peer Mentor Survey

The Peer Mentor Survey occurs in weeks 6-8 of the fall semester to collect LC participants’ feedback on their interactions with peer mentors. Total Responses: **3,121**

- **97%** of students agree or strongly agree that their peer mentor was **helpful** and provided them with **useful information**
- **94%** of students agree or strongly agree that their peer mentor is **knowledgeable** about the issues discussed in their learning community
- **95%** of students agree or strongly agree that their peer mentor **responds** in a reasonable time when I express a concern

“With [his] help, I’ve **easily adjusted to college life**, something I was always worried about before coming to ISU. Also, his genuine **concern for our well-being and success** makes me look forward to our classes together.”

“My discussions with [my peer mentor] **directly helped my study habits in my classes**. I felt very confident knowing someone who could help me with any problems in my class or with professors.”
Professional Development

**Coordinators**
- 51 LC coordinators participated in 20 professional development offerings
- New Coordinator Onboarding Series
  - 22 participants attended one or more of the 7 sessions offered
  - 16 participants attended 3 or more sessions
- 77 participants attended the Mid-Year Institute in January, including 26 peer mentors
- 99 participants attended the Annual LC Institute in May, which focused on enhancing opportunities for relationship-rich educational environments

**Peer Mentors**
- 153 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 9 modules covering campus resources, community building, program planning, and more
- PM Appreciation Week (April 22-26, 2024)
  - 102 appreciation event attendees
  - 49 thank you messages from LC coordinators
  - 116 peer mentors received thank you notes from 212 mentees

**Fall Semester Activities**
In the first 12 weeks of the fall semester, learning communities provided:
- 204 social activities
- 192 student reflections
- 294 study group or exam sessions
- 95 career exploration activities
- 177 faculty engagement activities
- 104 academic success presentations

84% of peer mentors had 1:1 in-person meetings with students

**Year-End Summary**
Throughout the 2023-2024 academic year, the 62 learning communities that completed the Annual Report form provided:
- 19 service-learning or community service activities
- 53 campus resource presentations
- 35 field trips or industry tours
- 59 single-semester or full-year seminars
- 20 alumni engagement opportunities
- 33 activities to learn about undergraduate research
- 45 career fair preparation opportunities

**LC Committees**
38 individuals dedicated time to enhance the LC experience through committee work during the 2023-2024 academic year

**New Initiative**
The Online Graduate Learning Community (OGLC) pilot launched in spring 2024 with 33 participants