

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

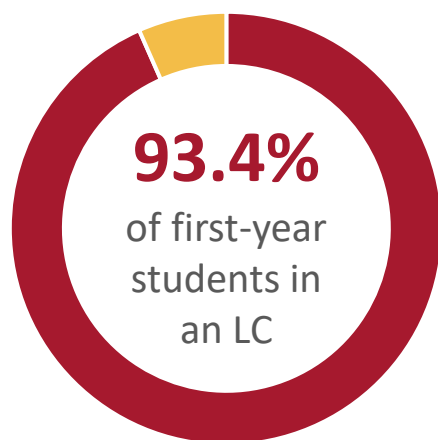


102 Faculty & Coordinators
*Average of 7 years coordinating experience



84 Learning Communities
*Including 21 residential (live-in) LCs

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

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.

"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."

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

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

New Initiative

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

LC Committees

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

Assessment Committee

- ✓ Enhanced student learning outcomes materials by including suggested activities, assignments, and measurement tools

Committee Members:

Kurt Earnest, Clayton Johnson, Ben McCarty, Matt Pistilli, Tina Prouty, Rachel Smith, Sarah Wehner

Curriculum Committee

- ✓ Sponsored a *Relationship-Rich Education: How Human Connections Drive Success in College* book circle
- ✓ Administered the annual LC Awards process

Committee Members:

Madison Akers, Cinzia Cervato, Clark Coffman, Brenna Dixon, Steve Freeman, Karen Scheel

Peer Mentor Committee

- ✓ Contributed to monthly peer mentor Canvas announcements
- ✓ Planned and hosted Peer Mentor Appreciation Week activities

Committee Members:

Heidi Ackerman, Mindy Cooper, Leah Kain, Rhaechel Ohge Fritz, Jacque Parker, Cait Spencer, Emily Wilcox

LC Advisory Committee:

Jordan Brooks, Paul Castleberry, Mindy Cooper, Brenna Dixon, Sarah DuBois, Kurt Earnest, Kelsey Gillen, Stephanie Hamilton, Katy Heineman, Michelle Hertzke, Clayton Johnson, Joel Johnson, Christina Moore, Rhaechel Ohge Fritz, Greer Potadle, Dawn Risdal, Allison Severson, Emily Wilcox, Johna Wolfe