Learning Communities Monthly

Learning Community Program Updates

Happy fall in Michigan! The leaves are changing color and the temperature is dropping; this is my favorite time of year. I hope you are having a great semester so far, and are enjoying the change of seasons.

This has been a crazy year and a crazy time for all of us, to move to virtual connection and engagement. I am just coming back from FMLA leave, having my second knee replacement, and it's been challenging, worth it, tiring, frustrating, and just about every other emotion all rolled into one. Taking care of myself and my husband (who uses a wheelchair for mobility) during COVID restrictions has never been so demanding. During my recovery, I've also had more time to learn more about the BLM Movement, racial disparity in our country, climate disasters, and politics, etc. We are all being asked to do more, in new and untested ways, to step up and support our beliefs and (hopefully) each other. I hope that each of you can find support, and give support with grace and patience, as we all navigate these unprecedented times, together.

The Learning Community Program Team is here to help! We have scheduled a LC Coordinator check in for Thursday, October 15th at 3 pm via Zoom. We will use this time to check in, share successes and challenges, and plan for upcoming events. LC Coordinators, check your email for the Zoom Link to join us!

- Amy Cooper

2020 Peer Mentor Training

This year's Peer Mentor Training took place virtually on August 24th and 25th. Despite this major change to our annual event, peer mentors were still eager to participate and learn. We enjoyed connecting with peer mentors from across all of our learning communities. Special thanks tor all of our campus partners who joined us at training:

- Stephanie Hawkes, Office of Multicultural Student Engagement
- Brandy Banks, Title IX Director
- Angela Zanardelli Sickler, Academic Success Center
- Zeina Ghoul, Academic Success Center
- Adam Duberstein, Evan MacAdams, and Dima Swaidan; CAPS Graduate Interns
- Christine Huang, Peer Assisted Learning
- Tiana Bosley, Math Resource Center
- Jule Thomas, WRT Zone
- Veronica Bielat, University Libraries
- Ahmad Awada, Student Service Center

We also wanted to give a few shoutouts to some of our most engaged peer mentors for their above-and-beyond participation at training:

- Heba Al-Hassan from RISE
- Emily Erdt from Public Relations
- Randi Foust from Sociology 4 Pre-Meds
- Roi Golan from Jewish Studies
- Angelica Kummer from Social Work Peer Support
- Amy Loji from Motown and Global
- Cassidy Loridon from Spanish

Thank you for your rockstar enthusiasm! We appreciate all of our peer mentors for making this year's training great. It was hearing your experiences and perspectives that made the days together so impactful.

October 2020

S	M	T	W	T	F	S
				1	2	3
4	5	6	7	8	9	10
11	12	13	14	**15**	16	17
18	19	20	21	22	**23**	**24**
25	26	27	28	29	**30**	31

Important Dates:

October 15 – LC Coordinator Meeting 3 pm

October 24-25 – National Learning Community Summit

October 30 – Peer Mentor Professional Development 1 pm

November 12 – LC Coordinator Meeting 3 pm

Also check out the **Student Success Workshops** offered by the Academic Success Center!

WSU & Election Day

The US election is scheduled for Tuesday, November 3rd, 2020. This year WSU has declared Election Day to be a University holiday. This will allow students, faculty, and staff the time and opportunity to vote. Additionally, the Damon Keith Center for Civil Rights Law Center on WSU main campus is now polling location for Precinct 149. Make sure you are registered to vote and do your civic duty.

Check your voter registration status **here**!

National Learning Community Summit

In response to COVID, this year's National Learning Community Conference (NLCC) in Corpus Christi, Texas was canceled. However, the NLCC Consortium, Learning Communities Association (LCA) and Washington Center for Improving the Quality of Undergraduate Education have announced a free, virtual Learning Community Summit.

The theme for the summit will be "Embracing Adaptability in Learning Communities During Uncertain Times" and speakers include Larry Roper from Oregon State University, Jillian Kinzie from the Center for Postsecondary Research at Indiana University, and Julia Metzker from the Washington Center. Speakers will be joined by learning community practitioners from across the country to share research and best practices for enhancing LCs to meet today's challenges.

We want to extend the invitation to this event to all of our learning community coordinators and partners. The LC Summit will be held on Friday, October 23rd and Saturday, October 24th via Zoom. So far, over 500 LC colleagues from across the country have registered to attend—please join us for networking and strategizing on how to best support learning communities and "Embracing Adaptability During Uncertain Times".

You can find the full summit schedule and register at: http://www.lcassociation.org/virtual-lc-summit-2020.html

LC Program staff and peer mentors at 2020 Peer Mentor Training on Zoom.

Created by Rachel H & Myyon L