

Learning Communities Monthly

2019 National LC Conference

The 24th Annual National Learning Community Conference was hosted by IUPUI in Indianapolis on November 14th, 15th, and 16th. This year's theme was "Innovating for Equity" and the Wayne State Learning Community Program provided three amazing presentations showcasing the great things we are doing in our LCs! James Fortune, Amy Cooper, and peer mentor Tori Miller provided an interactive session on high impact practices in the Theatre and Dance Learning Community. Kenya Swanson, Amy Cooper, and peer mentor Courtney Mansor presented a quick-talk session on the innovative practices used in the Warrior VIP Learning Community. Amy Cooper and Amy Novotny facilitated a session on the LC Program's Peer Mentor Training Program. The conference keynote was Dr. Tia Brown McNair, Associate Vice President of the Office of Diversity, Equity, and Student Success at AAC&U, who discussed the importance of equity and equity-mindedness on college campuses and challenged attendees to think about "who is driving the bus to innovate for equity?"



Amy Novotny (left) and Amy Cooper, following their presentation



WSU Team at NLCC: (left to right) front row: Tori Miller, Amy Cooper, Katie Turner; back row: Courtney Mansor, James Fortune, Dwight McDonald, Kenya Swanson, Amy Novotny

Peer Leader Supervisor Summit

On November 8, 50 WSU staff and faculty members came together to discuss best practices in supporting student leaders. Many departments, Learning Communities, and programs utilize undergraduate student employees to make their work successful. This can raise many questions about structuring roles that allow student employees to learn transferable skills. What kinds of supports and responsibilities will make student leaders more successful? How can staff supervisors plan for the best possible outcomes in student-to-student support? These are examples of questions participants asked and answered throughout the summit. Thanks to Maureen Johnson and Nannette McCleary, from Career Services, for highlighting competencies student leaders need to focus on. Thanks to the Warrior VIP Peer Mentors for sharing aspects of their work that make them passionate and engaged campus ambassadors. Thank you to Learning Communities for creating a reflective space where participants discussed putting learning into active daily practice. Finally, thank you to everyone who attended. The afternoon was a relaxed, but lively, atmosphere of conversation. Those who came brought what works and we all left with new ideas and connections to lead us into 2020. We hope to meet again the new year. If you are interested in future summit events please join our canvas course at <https://canvas.wayne.edu/courses/125374>.

– Frankee Fernandes, Coordinator of Peer Leader Training

PEER MENTOR OF THE MONTH

Tori Miller



LC: Theatre & Dance LC

Year: Senior

Extracurricular: Director in the Heck-Rabi Playwriting Festival, Coaching accents & dialects for WSU's A Christmas Carol, Climbing Club, amateur photographer

How long have you been a peer mentor?

I have been a Peer Mentor for three years! Wild.

Why do you like being a peer mentor?

I like making people feel welcome wherever they are. If they feel out-of-place, I'm on it to help lessen that feeling as best as I can. I like building a community within a department like how our LC has done with Theatre & Dance as a whole. We've built a culture.

Is there any advice you would give to new mentors?

Listen. Just to listen. To each other, to your students, to your professors. Truly hear each other and have patience with what you receive.

How was your experience at NLCC? What did you learn from it?

It was really lovely - there were some fantastic presentations that were given by professors and administrators from all around the country. It was cool to see how advanced WSU's Learning Communities are compared to some other schools that are just getting into the programs, too. I took a million notes, especially with one lecture on mindfulness and how to really gear your mind towards growth - and have already started incorporating some of the lectures into my mentoring!

December 2019

Save the Date!

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:

December 10th: Study Day

December 17th: Last Day of Finals

December 18th: LC Coordinator Meeting at noon in the UGL Community Room

December 23 - January 1: WSU Closed

Global Studies LC from the Peer Mentor Prospective

"As a 4th year Global Studies student, I am very excited to be a part of our new Learning Community! While Global Studies students take the same core classes, we all take diverse electives that help shape who we are as individuals. The Learning Community has been a great way to create a group of students who interact, share, and learn from each others experiences. One of my favorite parts of my undergraduate experience has been being able to integrate the knowledge I have acquired from my pre-medical course along with my global studies courses. This has provided me with an integral tool to continuing my education in both of these fields as a global citizen." – **Ayia Almufti**

"Being a global studies major has definitely changed my outlook on the world and the people I interact with daily. It has made me more open minded and understanding of other cultures and our differences and similarities we all share. Having the opportunity to study a language along with my major has helped me create connections and being a part of the global studies learning community has helped me meet others and share our views with one another. I hope to use these skills I have learned to help others with problems they are facing and create a more understanding and global world." – **Casey Spencer**

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LC of the Month: Global Studies

The Global Studies Learning Community is designed to enhance the regular coursework of the GLS core courses, as well as the majors and minors. Each week, the LC hosts GLS Hangouts for students to gather and discuss relevant topics as well as meet professors, career advisors, and local community organization leaders to learn more about global issues and institutions. The LC also holds biweekly writing and study sessions in the library, where students can get support from the peer mentors on their papers and homework. The GLS LC hosts Rushton Prep sessions, where students can meet with faculty to prepare papers, posters, and panels for the Rushton Conference in Winter 2020.

The Global Studies LC has joined forces with the other two learning communities in Classical & Modern Languages, Literatures and Culture (Spanish and Mediterranean Revolutions) to hold combined events, including a Global Jeopardy party at the beginning of the semester and a bus tour of murals and culture in Southwest Detroit with Mexican artist Elton Monroy Duran. (The mural bus tour is pictured below, right.)

The GLS LC is currently working with the Global Health Alliance in the Med School to organize events such an interdisciplinary meeting of professors, students, clubs, and local organizations involved in Global Health. Future career planning talks are scheduled with representatives of the Department of State, Immigration, the FBI, and other government agencies. The GLS LC participated in the planning of the OIP-sponsored International Education Week. The GLS LC will also be recording students saying "I Love Wayne State" in different languages, which will form the basis of a video we are creating in cooperation with OIP.

Laura Kline, the GLS LC Coordinator, is most excited about "the role the GLS LC is playing in fostering community among students and giving them the opportunity to learn about and discuss issues and institutions related to GLS outside of their classes."



Global Studies Peer Mentors Ayia Almufti (left) and Casey Spencer at August Peer Mentor Training



LC students during the mural tour with artist Elton Monroy Duran

Save the Date: 2020 Learning While Leading Conference February 21st 9 am – 5 pm

This conference is for undergraduate students interested in leadership on campus to attend and create a conference for their peers. Attending this conference is highly recommended for all Peer Mentors and attending will count toward your IMTPC certification. This is a great experience for leaders across campus to come together to discuss what it's like being a peer leader.

RSVP: <https://getinvolved.wayne.edu/event/5192124>

Propose a Breakout Session: <http://bit.ly/2s9q8QG>

Learning Community Program

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