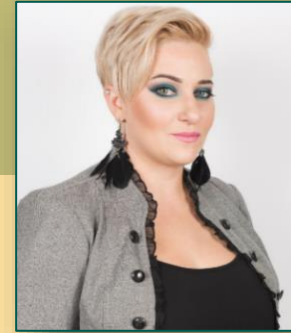


Learning Communities Monthly



PEER MENTOR OF THE MONTH

Shannon Kurzyniec



LC: Gallery Learning Community

Year: Senior

How long have you been a peer mentor?

I have been a peer mentor for the past six months and loving every minute of it.

Why do you like being a peer mentor?

I love being able to share my knowledge about art, the art galleries on and around Wayne State's campus. Whether it's to those that are involved in the art community, CFPCA College or to those who are just starting to dabble in the art world.

Is there any advice you would give to new mentors?

Always remember to be humble and kind. Everyone is going through something that we are unaware of most of the time. So be the smile that brightens their day. This is a big responsibility but worth every moment. Being able to be there for others, share your knowledge, and help guide them through some of the craziest times of their college career can not only help shape them but shape yourself into an amazing human being.



LC of the Month: Center for Latino/a and Latin American Studies

For more than 45 years, the Center for Latino/a and Latin American Studies at Wayne State University has continued its mission of providing equitable access to students interested in U.S. Latino/a and Latin American cultural studies while enhancing diversity on campus. One critical way we have achieved this mission is through our Learning Community, offering students comprehensive and culturally supportive academic, professional, and personal resources.

Students complete a sequence of courses, many fulfilling general education requirements, beginning their first year at WSU with LAS 1420: Introduction to Interdisciplinary Latino/a Studies Research and continuing with courses like LAS 2410: History of Mexico, LAS 3610: Latino/a Urban Problems, and LAS 3710: Learning about your Community through Research. Through the participation in our Learning Community, students can elect to complete the LAS academic minor in their third year. Peer mentors, faculty and staff members collaborate to facilitate social, cultural, and academic programming for our LC, increasing student leadership within the unit and the community at large.

Zach Morales is the LC Coordinator responsible for outreach, recruitment, and advising of first and second year students and believes in engaging students to find and develop their own pathways to success. Tamara Serrano Chandler is the LC Coordinator that emphasizes professional and leadership development for upper level students, through career mentorship, community-based research, and service learning with graduate school preparedness. Our star peer mentor team includes: Pamela Esparza, Josue Flores, Alfonso Garcia, Ashley Garcia, Noribeth Mariscal, Erica Perez, Jasmin Perez, Ross Pruett, Isabelle Rios-Colon, Katherine Sanchez, Alice Santana, and Adriana Villarreal.

Picture right: In fall 2019, a group of LAS students installed an ofrenda titled "Tree of Life" as part of the Day of the Dead exhibit at the DIA. It was dedicated to those from across the Americas who have lost their lives in their efforts to migrate to the United States.

February 2020

Save the Date!

S	M	T	W	T	F	S
26	27	28	29	30	31	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

Important Dates:

February 21: Learning While Leading Conference, 9 am – 5 pm, Student Center 2nd Floor

February 26: Winter 2020 Learning Community Cohorts due

February 28: Coordinator Meeting, 2-3:30 pm, Academic Success Center Commons (1600 UGL)

Save The Date: Year End Party!

With the semester flying by we want to announce the date for our annual year-end party.

The Year End Party will be on April 3rd in Community Room (UGL 3rd Floor) from 4 to 6pm

Please RSVP [here](#)! This will help us ensure we order enough food for all attendees.

There will be food, fun, photos, and awards. Peer mentors will receive their IMTPC certifications.

Want to recognize someone's hard work? Nominate them for Peer Mentor of the Year, Coordinator of the Year, or Over the Shamoun Overachiever awards. Also nominate for Learning Community of the Year and Mock Awards [here](#)!

LC Event Spotlight

PwC MPREP Scholars is a learning community designed to encourage, support, develop and retain multicultural, undergraduate students majoring in accounting and/or finance. The program is funded in part by PricewaterhouseCoopers (PwC), a Big 4 public accounting firm in Detroit. The program is open to all students within the Ilitch School.

Students from PwC MPREP Scholars joined together to support a local community service initiative over their Thanksgiving break (pictured below). Volunteers worked with Detroit Blight Busters, an organization whose mission is to stabilize, revitalize and rebuild Detroit neighborhoods.

Detroit Blight Busters, in conjunction with its coalition of community partners, can proudly claim 120,000 volunteers. The network has contributed more than 658,000 volunteer hours to paint 684 homes, board up and secure 379 abandoned buildings, renovate 176 houses and build 114 new ones to make suitable housing for 1,160 people. MPREP students contributed to that legacy.

For more information about the program or to recommend a student for participation, please contact Lynita Taylor, Diversity and Inclusion Program Manager.



Did you know how many events happen on campus each week? Many of the following events could be beneficial to both LC peer mentors and LC students. Share these schedules with your networks. Peer mentors should check to see if there is an event for you and your students to attend together!

Academic Success Center offers student success workshops. Some upcoming topics include *Food, Mood and GPA* and *Professionalism 101*. You can find the full list of ASC Workshops [here](#).

Career Services regularly hosts career competency workshops, mock interviews, and professional development events. You can find the full list of Career Services events [here](#).

Counseling and Psychological Services hosts ongoing group counseling each semester. It is open to all registered students. All CAPS services are free, but students must complete an initial consultation at CAPS to be eligible for groups. Click [here](#) to see more information about each of the CAPS groups!

Created by Lela Jimenez

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