Update from the Learning Community Program

By now, it is likely that you all have seen the recent WSU communications regarding response to COVID-19. Spring Break has been extended an extra week, and starting Monday, March 23rd, courses will continue using online and remote instruction for the remainder of the semester. The President and the Provost have asked all faculty and staff to take the week of March 16th to transition coursework and student services to online platforms. The Learning Community Program has been working with colleagues from across campus regarding these changes.

Learning Community Coordinators should check their emails for communication from the LC Program regarding how to continue LC interventions as the university moves to online and remote instruction starting Monday, March 23rd. Amy Novotny and Amy Cooper are available to meet virtually with LC Coordinators to discuss the continuity of LC support.

Additionally, Peer Mentors should speak with their LC Coordinators regarding any changes in job expectations. We will provide additional resources and links to both the LC Peer Mentor and LC Coordinator Canvas pages as they become available.

Do not hesitate to reach out to the Learning Community Program if you have any questions. We can be reached at 313-577-2254 or learningcommunities@wayne.edu.

Please be sure to continue reading through page two of this newsletter for updates on LC events and some tips on how to stay healthy.

Many thanks,
The LC Program Team

PEER MENTOR OF THE MONTH

Mary Yousif

LC: Spanish
Class Rank: Junior

Extracurricular Activities:
I tutor elementary and middle school kids in Southwest Detroit with an organization called El Centro de San Jose/La Casa Guadalupana. On the weekends, I volunteer in the birthing department at Troy Beaumont Hospital. I help the nurses by conducting the hearing tests on the newborns. On campus, I am actively involved with El Club Hispano, we have a weekly social hour which helps students practice conversing in Spanish and talking about a variety of topics, anything ranging from politics to music. Also, I am a research assistant at the Merrill Palmer Institute. Our research is a combination of social work and psychology and primarily focuses on infant mental health. However, we also have projects that focus on the parent's pre- and post-pregnancy experience. Lastly, one of my favorites, being a peer mentor!!!

How long have you been a peer mentor?
I started peer mentoring this past fall semester and hope to continue until graduation.

Why do you like being a peer mentor?
I like being a peer mentor because I love to teach others what I've learned and help them to become stronger and more knowledgeable about what they're learning. As a peer mentor working with my fellow peers, we learn from each other and grow together over the course of the semester. Most of all, I really enjoy that my students trust in me and come to me for help whether it be school or advice. We all have different experiences and I'm very fortunate enough to be working in a learning community that encourages and embraces this sharing of culture and language.

Is there any advice you would give to peer mentors?
Yes! Don't be afraid to make the classroom more innovative for students. Professors are willing to try out new things as long as you speak to them. Make your time as peer mentor fun and memorable! It's not like an ordinary job, you have the ability to create it as you want and I encourage you to take advantage of that. Remember, our position and role as a peer mentor is more than what it says on paper and you realize that very quickly. Students really do need us and it's important that we are there for them and make that effort to help them succeed. Don't worry, have an open mind and open heart and you'll be fine!
**March 2020**

**Save the Date!**

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**Important Dates:**

**Week of the 16th** – The LC Program has offered to meet remotely with LC Coordinators during this week to help plan for online/remote instruction. Want to chat? Add yourself to our calendar at a time that works for you by [clicking here](#).

**Friday, March 27th** – Online LC Coordinator Meeting, 10 am, additional details will be sent via email.

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**Event Spotlight: Kinesiology, Health and Sport Studies LC**

On February 17th, the KHS Learning Community sponsored 25 students (including peer mentors) to attend the Detroit Pistons and Teamwork Online Networking event. The students in attendance were upper-level Sport Admin Management undergraduate and graduate students (group pictured below). The event provided the students with an opportunity to meet with industry professionals from the Detroit Pistons, Detroit Lions, Detroit Tigers, Detroit Red Wings, Lansing Lugnuts, Rocket Mortgage Classic (PGA TOUR), and host of other organizations. As a part of the event, the students were also able to tour the state-of-the-art facility to see careers in action. The students were able to use their classroom knowledge in a practical setting and excelled.

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**End of the Year Party Update**

We are sad to announce that due to the rise of the COVID-19, we have made the decision to cancel the Learning Communities Year End Party on April 3rd.

We will still be accepting nominations for our annual LC awards and will announce recipients in our April Newsletter. You can nominate for Learning Community, Peer Mentor, and Coordinator of the Year [here](#)!

We also still plan to provide IMTPC certifications to each of our peer mentors. We will work to determine the best method for distributing these certificates.

LC Coordinators, if you offered additional training for your peer mentors this year, we can add these hours to their certification. As a reminder, all peer mentors receive Level 1 Regular certification by attending our two-day August Training (15 hours of training). If peer mentors received 25 total hours of training, they will receive Level 2 Intermediate certification. If they received 35 hours of training, they will receive Level 3 Master certification.

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**Stay Healthy!**

Here are some tips to stay healthy from the [Center for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC)](https://www.cdc.gov):

- Wash your hands frequently
- Avoid touching your face
- If you are sick please stay home, do not risk the safety of others
- Use hand sanitizer that contains at least 60% alcohol
- Put distance between yourself and others
- Cover your mouth and nose with a tissue when you cough or sneeze
- Clean and disinfect frequently touched surfaces

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Created by Lela Jimenez

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