

Learning Communities Monthly



Year End Recap

Many thanks to all of the faculty, staff, and peer mentors who make our Learning Communities possible. This year was a great year for LCs at WSU and we could not have done it without support from all of you.

In November, a team of WSU staff attended the National Learning Community Conference (NLCC) in Indianapolis. This team provided three different presentations during the conference. Additionally, Amy Cooper (Manager of the Learning Community Program) began her term as the secretary for the Learning Community Association Council. We hope to continue to take teams of LC coordinators and peer mentors to NLCC. With the 2020 conference cancelled, we have lots of time to plan and prepare presentations for the next NLCC in 2021.

In January, we hosted Learning Community Pitch Days with the help of campus partners from University Advising, Career Services, the Student Service Center, Housing and Residential Life, and the Office for Teaching and Learning. Check out page 2 of this newsletter for a list of the NEW learning communities starting in Fall 2020!

We awarded a record 53 Master-level certifications to our peer mentors this year. We also had 25 Advanced-level and 97 Regular-level certifications. We are so proud of all that our peer mentors have achieved. We will kick off next year's peer mentor training when we launch our updated Canvas page soon! While we expect August Peer Mentor Training will look different this year, we plan for live and/or synchronous sessions to be on Monday, August 24th and Tuesday, August 25th. We are looking for outstanding, returning peer mentors to participate in our Training Planning Committee as we plan and innovate for this year's training. If you have a peer mentor in mind to help plan our training this summer, please send an email to learningcommunities@wayne.edu!

Thank you, everyone, for your hard work this year!

-The Learning Community Program



Top Photo: Gallery Learning Community at 2019 FestiFall

Middle Photo: Peer mentors from the WIDER and Biology 1050 Learning Communities at 2019 FestiFall

Bottom Photo: Collage of photos from August Peer Mentor and LC Coordinator Kickoff events

Learning Community Program Updates:

Promoting Learning Communities on the new Wisr Warriors Platform!

Wiser Warriors (Wisr) is a new platform adopted by Admissions to help outreach with Wayne State's incoming freshman and transfer students. The Learning Community Program has a community page to promote our LCs to incoming students. Send us any flyers you have for your individual LC and we will be sure to feature them in our group.

August Peer Mentor Training to be on August 24th and 25th!

While we are still in the initial planning stages for August Training, we know things will look different this year. As you hire your peer mentors for 2020-21, please inform them of these training dates, as we intend to host synchronous training on these dates. As we know more about August, we will provide updates!

WSU Town Halls

Wayne State is working hard to make plans to bring people back to campus safely. To find out more information about these plans, watch the [recording of the Academic Restart Town Hall with Provost Keith Whitfield](#).

Additionally, President Wilson is hosting a town hall on Thursday, May 21st from 3 to 4:30 p.m. Find more information about this event and RSVP [here](#).

New Learning Communities for 2020-2021!

Environmental Sciences and Sustainability – Coordinated by Donna Kashian, Elena Past, Chris Steiner, and Darryl Pierson
The Environmental Sciences and Sustainability Learning Community is for students in the Ecology and the Environment (BIO 3500) course but is especially designed for students seeking deeper exposure to issues in environmental science and sustainability. Members of the learning community will deepen their understanding of urban sustainability and have opportunities to expand their networks through interaction with practitioners in the greater urban Detroit community.

Jewish Studies – Coordinated by Howard Lupovitch
The Jewish Studies Learning Community is open to all students, those in Jewish Studies courses and otherwise. We will be offering two types of learning opportunities. First, for students in Jewish Studies courses – Jewish History, Hebrew, Israeli Culture and Society – there will be an opportunity to participate learning events that will complement the course. For students not enrolled in a Jewish Studies course, there will be learning events on a variety of topics that will be determined by student interests.

School of Medicine: Physicians in Training – Coordinated by LaToya Sherman and Eric Ayers
Through the development of robust and complementary Peer Mentor and Mentee relationships, the new School of Medicine: Physicians in Training Learning Community paves a smooth path in the transition from undergrad to medical education. The program brings all four classes of medical students together through social engagement activities and its subject based curriculum “meet-ups” that are centered on discussions regarding Detroit's top health disparities and particular issues that physicians face.

Social Work Peer Support (SWPS) – Coordinated by Judith Wineman
This learning community was created to connect social work students with peer mentors in their academic program (BSW and MSW). The SWPS LC creates opportunities for students to support other students as well as build a stronger student community within the School of Social Work.

Transcending Equity in Mathematics for Pre-Elementary School Teachers (TEMPEST) – Coordinated by Shawntae Harris Mintline and Len Hernandez
TEMPEST was created to support students pursuing elementary or special education majors who are working through their mathematics sequence. This LC will help students understand the mathematics as they transition from a mathematics student to a teacher of mathematics.

Created by Lela Jimenez