

ARE WE MAKING THE MOST OF PEER EDUCATION AT IOWA?

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STUDENT SUCCESS TEAM

- ◎ Background
- ◎ RISE Research:
 - ◎ Tutoring/teaching other students
 - ◎ Serving as a peer educators
 - ◎ Positive outcomes (GPA, personal/interpersonal growth, career/professional growth, protective for high-risk drinking)
 - ◎ Consistent with other research on educationally-purposeful activities

SST COMMITTEE ON PEER EDUCATORS

- ⊙ One of the first SST Action Committees, Fall 2007
- ⊙ Recommendations:
 - ⊙ Provide a forum for discussion of peer education at Iowa
 - ⊙ Consider a one-day workshop to support effective practices in peer education
 - ⊙ Create a detailed list of peer education opportunities at Iowa
 - ⊙ Consider mechanisms for funding support for peers

PEER EDUCATION

- ◎ **Peer education** is advising, mentoring, tutoring or teaching activities provided by undergraduates to undergraduates. Peer education takes many forms at the University of Iowa. For the purposes of our discussion, we focus on those activities, both curricular and co-curricular, that have an explicit educational focus.
 - ◎ --SST Committee on the Use of Peer Educators

PEER EDUCATION CATEGORIES

- ① **Health Advocacy**
- ① **Advising**
- ① **Supplemental Instruction**
- ① **Tutors**
- ① **Teaching Aides**
- ① **Employment-related programs**
- ① **Orientation**

“HIGH-IMPACT” ACTIVITIES

- ③ High impact activities are those that allow students to apply learning to real-life, *to make connections*, reflect and integrate learning
- ③ Kuh: *Students are most successful in “seamless environments”* where they can make connections between classroom and out of classroom experiences

ELEMENTS OF HIGH-IMPACT PRACTICES

- ⊙ Require considerable student time and effort
- ⊙ Provide mechanisms for extensive interaction with faculty/staff and peers
- ⊙ Experiences that provide contact with others across difference – results in new ways of thinking
- ⊙ Frequent feedback
- ⊙ Structure that promotes integrating learning and making connections
 - ⊙ Public demonstration of competence (e.g., portfolio, capstone, reflection)

PEER EDUCATION SNAPSHOTS

STUDENT SUCCESS TEAM

- ⊙ *Honors Peer Advisors and ICRU Research Ambassadors* (Bob Kirby)
- ⊙ *Resident Assistants* (Greg Thompson)
- ⊙ *Health Ninjas/Red Watch Band* (Tanya Villhauer)
- ⊙ *Career Leadership Academy – LLC Mentors* (Matt Augeri)
- ⊙ *SWAT* (Kate Sojka)
- ⊙ *IowaLink* (Brian Corkery)
- ⊙ *CLAS Peer Mentors* (Diane Hauser)

SMALL GROUP DISCUSSION

- ⊙ *In your small groups, discuss the following:*
 - ⊙ With regard to our various peer education opportunities, which elements of high-impact activities are we incorporating well? Where could we do better?
 - ⊙ What opportunities do you see for collaboration? For instance:
 - Shared training?
 - Publicizing peer educator opportunities?
 - Given that many of our peer programs focus on students in need, how might we more effectively share information to help students?
 - ⊙ Where should our conversations on Peer Educators go from here?

ANNOUNCEMENTS

- ◎ SST Newsletter and Facebook Page



- ◎ Meet the Challenge Awards
- ◎ [Reporting a Student Concern](#) (Michelle Cohenour)
- ◎ Spring Student Learning Assessment Event