Leading Students to Empower their Peers in Undergraduate Research

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Three Types of Student Leadership Programs

1. L.E.A.R.N. Program
   a. Peer Mentors
   b. Teaching Assistants
   c. Student Assistants
2. Peer Advising/Mentoring
3. Student Councils
L.E.A.R.N. Peer Mentors
L.E.A.R.N. @ UCF and FAU

- Learning Community
- Introduction to Research I & II courses
- Social, Academic and Service Programming
- Academic Advisors
- Faculty/Graduate Mentors in research
- Peer Mentors
# L.E.A.R.N. Peer Mentor: Training

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>At UCF</th>
<th>At FAU</th>
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| ● 3 for FTIC & 3 for transfer students  
● Starts before fall semester starts, and continues throughout the year once a month | ● 3 for FTIC & 3 for transfer students  
○ Initiated prior to fall semester  
○ Once weekly throughout academic year  
○ Case by case basis |
| ● 1 Student Assistant  
● Starts 2 weeks before fall semester starts, and continues on-the-job |
L.E.A.R.N. Peer Mentor: Responsibilities

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<th>At UCF</th>
<th>At FAU</th>
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<tr>
<td>● Monthly meetings with students</td>
<td>● Monthly meetings with students</td>
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<tr>
<td>● Teaching assistant for Introduction to Research Courses</td>
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<td>● Meets with LEARN students during office hours</td>
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<td>● Grading</td>
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<td>● Program implementation support</td>
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<td>● Office support</td>
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<td>At UCF</td>
<td>At FAU</td>
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<tr>
<td>● Digital Storytelling Project</td>
<td>● Teaching and assessment training from program PIs</td>
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<tr>
<td>● Provided with one-on-one meetings with</td>
<td>● Development of graduate school and professional skills</td>
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<td>staff and Peer Mentor meetings each month</td>
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<td>● One-on-one meetings with staff</td>
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<td>● Additional projects</td>
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<td>● Serve on professional panels</td>
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## L.E.A.R.N. Peer Mentor: Student Compensation

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| ● $10/hour for variable hours, thoughts on using stipends due to leadership quality of position  
● Federal Work Study  
● Florida Work Experience Program | ● $10/hour with a maximum of $1,500 for position duration |
| ● $11/hour for 10hrs/week |
Peer Mentor Advisors: The Program

At UCF

- 3 peer mentors work between 10-30 hours
- Offer two sessions of advising a day, four days a week
  - Both drop-in and appointments
- Peer Mentors saw over 650 students last year: most talk about how to get started

At FAU

- ~10 peer mentors
- Mentor during weekly office hours and by appointment
- Host workshops
- Classroom presentations
- Summer - Summer Contract
## Peer Mentor Advisors: Training

### At UCF
- One full day with Student Council
  - Covers: basics about our office and how to explain their own work
- Starting early to mid-Summer, new PMs go through about 1-2 weeks of on the job training with previous year’s mentor(s)

### At FAU
- “Peer Mentoring 101” Training
- “Peer Mentor Social”
- Mock Mentoring Sessions
- Monthly Meetings
- Monthly Professional Development (public speaking, time management, stress reduction etc.)
Peer Mentor Advising: Responsibilities

At UCF

- “Own” the advising experience:
  - Prep, advise, and record
  - Assist with assessment
- Given leeway to develop new materials or processes for advising
  - Examples: ‘cheat sheets’ for special populations
- Provide invaluable feedback to OUR

At FAU

- Mentor, lead, and host workshops, mentoring sessions, and classroom presentations
- Record “touch points” for assessment
- Provide OUR with student perspective
Peer Mentor Advising: Growth Opportunities

At UCF

- Provided with one-on-one meetings with staff members
- Encouraged to take on new projects to grow skillsets
  - Common: creative projects, public speaking, social media content

At FAU

- Explore research outside of their own disciplines
- Network with faculty and students
- Create new student professional development opportunities (i.e. workshops)
- Pursue opportunities to bolster their applications for future endeavors
Peer Mentor Advising: Student compensation

At UCF

- Paid $10/hour
- Also use Federal Work Study (or Florida Work Experience Program) funding

At FAU

- $600 stipend split between 2 semesters (Fall and Spring)
- Polos and Business cards
- Must complete prerequisites before stipend is disbursed
- Go with the flow:
  - time of disbursement is flexible
  - disbursement methods have changed each year of the program
Student Councils
Student Councils: The Details

At UCF

Student Undergraduate Research Council (SURC)

- NOT an RSO
- 10 members
- Open to all disciplines, we select for variety
- Returning members (~30%)

At FAU

Council for Scholarship and Inquiry (CSI)

- Registered Student Organization (SG funding)
- Officers each year range from 6-10 active members (President, VP, treasurer, etc.)
- Open to students from all disciplines
- 258 currently registered members
Student Councils: Training

At UCF

● Recruitment cycle allows for one-day, all-team training in early May
  ○ Guest speakers, interactive activities, lunch

At FAU

● Similar training to the Peer Mentor Program:
  ○ Peer Mentoring 101
  ○ What is Research?
  ○ How to Get Started in Research
  ○ How to Contact Faculty
Student Councils: What do they do?

At UCF
- Recruit and publicize for us (in-person, social media)
- Administer student and faculty recognition programs
- Advise OUR on programs, workshops, and other efforts

At FAU
- Recruit and publicize for OURI (classroom presentations, tabling, emails, social media)
- Determine “Distinguished Mentor of the Year” (a faculty mentor award)
- Host the Symposium Reception
- Edit, publish, and fund the Florida Atlantic Undergraduate Research Journal (FAURJ)
Student Councils: Event Management

**At UCF**
- Past years: student panels and workshops
  - Mythbusters: Undergraduate Research Edition
- New this year: Faculty panel
- They are also working together on a “Research Fair” for all the research-related RSOs on campus

**At FAU**
- General Body meetings 1-2 per semester
- “Meeting of the Minds” aka “MOM”
  - College Specific in the fall
  - “Super MOM” in the spring
  - Faculty Panel
  - Dinner and Networking
  - Invite other RSOs to table and recruit
Student Councils: The “Carrot” for Participation

At UCF

- Official polo shirt and name tag
- Letters of recommendation
- $300 in research funds, if they’re in good standing
- Networking and leadership opportunities

At FAU

- OURI T-Shirt
- Letters of Recommendation
- Networking with other students, faculty, and staff
- Leadership opportunities
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