Leading Students to Empower their Peers in Undergraduate Research

Tracy N. Baker, Jodiene Johnson
(Florida Atlantic University)
Aubrey Kuperman, and Colleen Smith
(University of Central Florida)
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>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>● 3 for FTIC &amp; 3 for transfer students</td>
<td>● 3 for FTIC &amp; 3 for transfer students</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>● Starts before fall semester starts, and</td>
<td>○ Initiated prior to fall semester</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>continues throughout the year once a</td>
<td>○ Once weekly throughout academic year</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>month</td>
<td>○ Case by case basis</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>● 1 Student Assistant</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>● Starts 2 weeks before fall semester starts, and continues on-the-job</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
### L.E.A.R.N. Peer Mentor: Responsibilities

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>At UCF</th>
<th>At FAU</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>● Monthly meetings with students</td>
<td>● Monthly meetings with students</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>● Teaching assistant for Introduction to Research Courses</td>
<td>● Teaching assistant for Introduction to Research Courses</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>● Meets with LEARN students during office hours</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>● Grading</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>● Program implementation support</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>● Office support</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
# L.E.A.R.N. Peer Mentor: Growth Opportunities

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>At UCF</th>
<th>At FAU</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>● Digital Storytelling Project</td>
<td>● Teaching and assessment training from program PIs</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>● Provided with one-on-one meetings with staff and Peer Mentor meetings each month</td>
<td>● Development of graduate school and professional skills</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>● One-on-one meetings with staff</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>● Additional projects</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>● Serve on professional panels</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
# L.E.A.R.N. Peer Mentor: Student Compensation

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>At UCF</th>
<th>At FAU</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>● $10/hour for variable hours, thoughts on using stipends due to leadership quality of position</td>
<td>● $10/hour with a maximum of $1,500 for position duration</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>● Federal Work Study</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>● Florida Work Experience Program</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>● $11/hour for 10hrs/week</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Peer Advising and Mentoring
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 OURI 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
Presenters’ Contact Information

Dr. Tracy N. Baker, FAU
Assistant Program Director
Office of Undergraduate Research and Inquiry
tnlbaker@fau.edu

Jodiene Johnson, FAU
NSF LEARN Program Coordinator
Office of Undergraduate Research and Inquiry
johnsonj@fau.edu

Aubrey Kuperman, UCF
Coordinator, Student Programs
Office of Undergraduate Research
aubrey.kuperman@ucf.edu

Colleen Smith, UCF
L.E.A.R.N. Programs Coordinator
Office of Undergraduate Research
CMRS@ucf.edu