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  
- 1 Student Assistant  
- Starts 2 weeks before fall semester starts, and continues on-the-job | - 3 for FTIC & 3 for transfer students  
○ Initiated prior to fall semester  
○ Once weekly throughout academic year  
○ Case by case basis |
# L.E.A.R.N. Peer Mentor: Responsibilities

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

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<th>At UCF</th>
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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 staff and Peer Mentor</td>
<td>● Development of graduate school and professional skills</td>
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<tr>
<td>meetings each month</td>
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<tr>
<td>● One-on-one meetings with staff</td>
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<tr>
<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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<th>At FAU</th>
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<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>
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<td>Federal Work Study</td>
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<td>Florida Work Experience Program</td>
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<tr>
<td>$11/hour for 10hrs/week</td>
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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

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