

Engaging First-Year Engineers through Peer Mentoring

Fast Facts:

- Voluntary mentoring program for entering chemical engineering first-year students
- Goals for First-Year Students
 - increasing student knowledge of major and career
 - students being more connected to the department in advance of major-specific coursework (typically started in year 2)
- Goals for Mentors
 - Improve skill sets in transferable “people skills”
 - Provide leadership roles for additional students
- Monthly Programming Provided
 - Lecture series on topics including career preparation, study abroad options, preparing for the first major-specific class, dealing with stress
 - Social activities including challenge course, bowling, meals and service opportunities and projects
 - Assessment data shows evidence goals were met
- Sponsored program supported by Shell (approximately \$5000/year)
 - Mentors not compensated
 - Funding utilized for food and social activities costs
- Professional Development and training of mentors provided
 - Cross Cultural Communication, Recognizing signs of distress, Wrapping up the mentoring experience, Skills for new professionals
 - Assessed via focus group to have met these goals
- Recommended Text to get started:
 - Sanft, M., Jensen, M., & McMurray, E. (2008). *Peer Mentor Companion*. Belmont, CA. Wadsworth Cengage Learning.

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