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:

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