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Family Members and Advocates,

Greetings from Iowa State!

It is with great excitement that we present the fall 2015 semester newsletter! The goal of this resource is to provide information useful in support of your student’s successful transition to Iowa State and the College of Engineering!

Please note that our college has a one stop shop for academic resources: our Engineering Student Services Office. In addition to our physical campus office, we also offer a variety of online resources. Students can find academic support, manage their degree progress, access college academic policies and procedures, and learn about critical university resources at Iowa State. We are also ready to help you identify ways to get involved with student organizations, leadership opportunities, or study abroad programs. Our staff are excited to meet with students one on one who have questions or may be looking for resources! We want to be an advocate for your student’s success. As we discussed at our college’s Parent Orientation session, students simply need to ask for help. Please feel free to contact us!

As we enter our academic advising season, I would like to remind you of some important information items to share with your student. First, it is important that students plan ahead and schedule an advising appointment with their academic adviser. We suggest students begin this process of scheduling an appointment now to assure an appointment time is finalized. Also, students in their first 2-3 semesters should be working diligently to complete their Basic Program of classes. It is important to note the requirements for Entry into Professional Program section. Students should discuss with their academic adviser their academic progress to assure they are completing the Basic Program in a timely fashion.

As you talk with your student about their academic progress, please do not hesitate to contact myself or an academic adviser with questions you may have as a family member/advocate. We look forward to our partnership with you to assist in your student’s success at Iowa State.

Go Cyclones!

Dr. Joel Johnson

Director, Engineering Student Services

Contact Us

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Dear Engineering Student Families:

Greetings from the Diversity Programs Office in the College of Engineering’s Student Services! My name is Dr. LeQuetia Ancar and I am the Assistant Director of Student Services and Multicultural Liaison Officer (MLO) for the College. It’s an exciting time to be a student in the College of Engineering at Iowa State University. We are now home to nearly 1000 multicultural students and over 1200 women students. As the MLO for the College I coordinate programs and services through the Leadership through Engineering Academic Diversity (LEAD) Program to aid in the academic, professional, and social-cultural development, success, and retention of multicultural and women students. I am honored to have the opportunity to support your student on their journey to earning an engineering degree. The LEAD Program supports this growing student body in a multitude of ways; some of which are highlighted below:

/ Participation in the LEAD Living and Learning Community with other first year and transfer multicultural engineering students with the mentorship of upperclassmen peers

/ Academic support through supplemental tutoring services and study tables facilitated by upperclassmen mentors for engineering foundational courses: Math, Chemistry, Physics, Computer Programming, and others

/ Professional development opportunities through seminars and workshops with Engineering faculty, staff, students and industry professionals

/ Engagement in networking luncheons with students, faculty, and staff to foster a greater sense of connection and belonging

/ Acclimation support through academic and personal advising and referrals to campus partners to aid in the transition from high school to college life

continued on next page >
Students do not have to apply to be a part of the LEAD Program and are welcome to take advantage of services, programs, and opportunities offered as needed. Hundreds of students have actively participated in LEAD programs during their adventure at ISU and I hope your student will do the same. According to a former LEAD student and recent engineering graduate, “diversity programs have provided valuable resources that have contributed to my success at ISU and have introduced me to new friendships and acquaintances while strengthening these bonds throughout the years.”

Building community through connections and collaboration are at the heart of the LEAD Program. If there is ever anything that I can do to help you, as you assist your student on their journey to graduation, please don’t hesitate give me a call or send me an email. Feel free to refer your student to my office in 2620 Howe Hall if you feel they could benefit from additional support, a listening ear, or friendly guidance. My door is always open. Together we can provide the best web of support to your student.

Sincerely,

Dr. Ancar

Dr. LeQuetia Ancar has served in academic and student affairs for the past 13 years at Iowa State University, primarily in the College of Engineering. As the Assistant Director of Student Services and Multicultural Liaison Officer for the College of Engineering, she currently coordinates diversity programs and services to aid in the success and retention of multicultural and female undergraduate engineering students through the Leadership through Engineering Academic Diversity (LEAD) Program. With a focus on building community, connection, and collaboration she has dedicated her career to helping students discover and reach their full potential; making her passion her life purpose. Dr. Ancar earned her PhD from the Department of Agricultural and Biosystems Engineering in Industrial and Agricultural Technology.
students’ reports
on the value of experiential education

Academic preparation is very important, but not always enough to land that first full-time job. Employers want to see professional work experience on a resume. All ISU engineering students are encouraged to pursue internships and cooperative education positions, and to register their experiences with ECS. Experiential education is not required in any of the engineering programs but over 70% of our students participate in these experiences because of their skill-building experiences and other benefits.

The most recent Engineering Career Fair, held on Sep. 29, 2015, saw 365 employers recruit over 6600 students for internship, co-op, and full-time positions. In the four weeks following the fair, Engineering Career Services hosted over 3000 on-campus interviews and many more occurred off campus. Many of these interviews will yield the 2016 internship and co-op positions that students covet.

In 2014-2015, 1042 students registered an internship or co-op (up 8%) and nearly 500 distinct employers hosted an experiential education student (up 14%). Feedback from students about the quality of their experiences was very positive (see charts on next page) and 92% rated their work experience as good or excellent.
students’ reporting on the value of experiential education
2014 – 2015

- received desired amount of feedback on performance
  - 48% strongly agree
  - 42% agree
  - 8% neutral
  - 8% disagree
  - 1% strongly disagree

- assigned appropriate level of responsibility
  - 51% strongly agree
  - 37% agree
  - 8% neutral
  - 4% disagree
  - 1% strongly disagree

- work contained significant engineering practice
  - 45% strongly agree
  - 38% agree
  - 12% neutral
  - 4% disagree
  - 1% strongly disagree

- work was professionally challenging
  - 40% strongly agree
  - 50% agree
  - 8% neutral
  - 2% disagree
  - 2% strongly disagree

- recommend employer to other students
  - 98% strongly agree

- overall rating
  - 63% strongly agree
  - 29% agree
  - 7% neutral
  - 1% disagree

Legend:
- yellow: strongly agree
- red: agree
- gray: neutral
- blue: disagree
- green: strongly disagree
With winter on the way, it is time to start thinking about National Engineers’ Week! This coming National Engineers’ Week will take place from February 21st to 27th. This is a great opportunity for the College of Engineering to showcase to the University the pride and excitement that comes with being an Engineer! The events for the week will be coordinated by Engineers’ Week, a student-lead campus organization.

Engineers’ Week mission is to celebrate the College of Engineering at Iowa State University by connecting the student to other students, other student organizations, professors and faculty, and to the greater Ames community. The organization fulfills this mission by creating, planning, and executing programs throughout the fall semester and a week’s worth of events during the National Engineers’ Week. The organization is comprised of 25 outstanding student-leaders and coordinates over 50 volunteers for the week. Members of the organization receive practical leadership experience and professional development.

The programs that Engineers’ Week organizes span from athletic events to volunteer service opportunities, as well as inviting speakers to campus to talk on topics related to engineering. These events culminate in the National Engineers’ Week in February. During this celebration, there are many exciting events for students to participate in including: Engineering Olympics, a Research Fair, Middle School Day, Engineers’ Night Out, Tech talks, and a Keynote Speaker. There are plenty of exciting events in store for this coming year’s Engineers’ Week, and we encourage all hopeful engineering student leaders to consider participating!
Engineering students are often excited to develop leadership skills during their time at Iowa State. Leadership opportunities pose many benefits for students, helping them build their resume and skills needed to gain internships, co-ops, and jobs in the field of engineering, as well as connecting students with the College of Engineering and the larger Iowa State campus. The College of Engineering provides many opportunities for students to get involved and practice leadership, including a close partnership with the Leadership Studies Program, to develop critical skills students need to be effective leaders.

Courses in leadership studies challenge students to reflect upon the impact of respected leaders and their own leadership experiences, developing and refining their personal philosophy of leadership. The myriad of courses the College of Engineering offer engage engineering students in the development how they define leadership, navigation of engineering teams, and leadership in organizations with application to students serving as leaders.

Collectively, these courses are designed to support students in their growth and practice of leadership. First-year students are especially encouraged to take ENGR 150: Foundations of Leadership.

These courses provide engineering students an opportunity to study leadership and develop skills in which employers deem valuable among their hires. Students who choose to complete a sequence of courses may choose to enroll in the certificate or minor programs which is noted on their transcript upon graduation. The certificate and the less substantial minor consist of leadership development, communication, and organizational behavior courses that complement the technical development of engineering students.

Employers are seeking students with both technical and leadership skills, and often look to Iowa State students as they are prepared with these skills. Ask your student what they are doing to learn leadership during their time at Iowa State. Students can get involved in student organizations, attend leadership workshops, or enroll in leadership courses and the leadership certificate or minor. We encourage students to take a leadership course early, and if they want the fullest experience, to enroll in the leadership certificate.

For more information:
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