

IOWA STATE UNIVERSITY

College of Engineering

Parent Newsletter

November 2014

Family members,

Greetings from Iowa State!

It is with great excitement that we present our first newsletter of the fall 2014 semester directed to you as family members! The goal of this newsletter is to provide useful information as you advocate with your student regarding a successful transition to Iowa State and achieving academic success in our engineering curriculum!

Please note that if your student has transition questions or would like academic resources, Iowa State and the College of Engineering have several options available. Have your student visit: <http://www.engineering.iastate.edu/student-services/advising/advising-center/>, stop by the Engineering Student Services office in 2620 Howe Hall or call us at 515-294-7186. As we talked about at orientation, students simply need to ask for help—our staff is excited to meet with students!

As our academic advising season begins in earnest next month, I would like to provide you with some important information to share with your student. First, students should plan ahead and schedule an advising appointment with their academic adviser. The link in the previous paragraph provides students access to adviser contact information. We suggest all students begin scheduling these appointments now to secure a timely meeting.

During these appointments, students in their first through third semesters should discuss their progress with the basic program. They should be working diligently to complete this coursework in a timely fashion. For information on the college's Basic Program, visit <http://catalog.iastate.edu/collegeofengineering/#option1>, noting the **Requirement for Entry into Professional Program** section. Students should discuss with their academic adviser their Basic Program progress to assure they are completing the Basic Program in a timely fashion.

As you talk with your student about his or her academic progress, please do not hesitate to contact me or an academic adviser with questions you may have as a family member/advocate. Our Student Services office can be reached at 515-294-7186.

We look forward to our partnership with you to assist in your student's success at Iowa State.

Joel Johnson, Ph.D.
Director of Engineering Student Services

The College of Engineering dedicated Elings Hall and Sukup Hall—the new home for the Department of Agricultural and Biosystems (ABE) Engineering.

Read more: <http://news.engineering.iastate.edu/2014/10/17/celebrating-the-completion-of-the-biorenewables-complex/>

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LEAD Program

Dear Engineering Student Families:

Greetings from the Diversity Programs Office in the College of Engineering's Student Services! It's an amazing time to be an engineering student at Iowa State University. My name is Dr. LeQuetia Ancar and I am the Assistant Director of Student Services and Multicultural Liaison Officer (MLO) for the college. 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. We are now home to more than 900 multicultural students and nearly 1200 female students and I am honored to have the opportunity to support your student on his or her 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 mentorship from upperclassmen peers

Academic support through tutoring 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

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 on their journey to graduation and I hope your student will do the same. According to one student, who is a graduating senior now, “I have enjoyed the many friendships that were created from these memorable experiences. My network and knowledge of engineering has expanded.”

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, 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. My door is always open. Together we can provide the best web of support to our multicultural and women students.

Sincerely,

Dr. Ancar



Dr. LeQuetia Ancar has served in academic and student affairs for the past 12 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. Dr. Ancar earned her PhD from the Department of Agricultural and Biosystems Engineering in Industrial and Agricultural Technology and has made her passion her purpose.

Adjusting to College Life

As your student enters the second half of his or her first semester, projects and homework will be piling up. It can be easy to become overwhelmed with the workload. An important part of college is figuring out how to manage stress.

Common college student stressors include:

- Continual and mounting academic demands
- Trying to make friends
- Being on one's own in a new environment
- Relationship issues, including dating and family relationships
- Financial responsibilities
- Exposure to new people and ideas

Students can do a variety of things to combat these stressors, such as:

- Staying organized and on-top of deadlines. Don't procrastinate!
- Finding a study space where they can work with little distractions.
- Going to class— making themselves accountable for their learning.
- Talking to a family member, an academic adviser or a professor about feeling overwhelmed.
- Budgeting their money and knowing where that money is going.
- Getting involved in a club or student organization is a great way to make friends.
- Communicating with their family, friends and roommates about any issues they are having.

(Adapted from: www.quintcareers.com/first-year_success.html and transitionyear.org/parent/articles.php?step=3&id=18)

Study Tips and Academic Resources

It's important to remember that college is different from high school, and with that, studying also needs to be different. The things that worked in high school may not work in college.

In high school, students may study as little as 0-2 hours a week.

In college, students need to study 2-3 hours outside of class for each hour in class.

In high school, teachers may approach you if they believe you need assistance.

In college, professors are usually open and helpful, but most expect you to initiate contact if you need assistance.

In high school, initial test grades, especially when they are low, may not have an adverse effect on your final grade.

In college, first tests are usually “wake-up” calls to let you know what is expected — and they may account for a substantial part of the course grade.

(From: www.smu.edu/Provost/ALEC/NeatStuffforNewStudents/HowIsCollegeDifferentfromHighSchool)

What types of academic resources are available for students at Iowa State?

Students can go to professors' office hours

They can attend a free Supplemental Instruction session—get help with traditionally difficult courses

Enroll in tutoring through the Academic Success Center

Meet with an Academic Coach in the Academic Success Center

Meet with their adviser or Multicultural Liaison Officer (MLO)

Go to the Writing and Media Center to get help with papers

Check out more academic resources for students: www.dso.iastate.edu/asc

Students Studying Leadership

While attending Iowa State University, your student has many opportunities to engage in leadership skill development. Students are encouraged to participate in student organizations and attend leadership workshops throughout the year. Additionally, the College of Engineering has partnered with Iowa State's Leadership Certificate Program to provide engineering students with leadership courses to help them build necessary skills during their time in college.

Based on theoretical models of student leadership development, the leadership courses are designed to support students as they grow in their understanding and practice of leadership. Students examine their own beliefs about leadership and respectable qualities in leaders. They apply leadership theory to activities and experiences to continually shape their leadership philosophy. First year students are encouraged to take ENGR 150: Foundations of Leadership and CLPS 270: Campus Leadership Development as introductory courses for leadership. Upperclassmen are encouraged to take ENGR 250x: Leadership in Engineering Teams and LAS 322: Leadership in a Diverse Society. Courses are open and available for all engineering students.

The Leadership Certificate Program is available for students who wish to complete a sequence of courses. The certificate is more substantial than a minor and is noted on their transcript. Beyond three core courses, students will complete coursework in electives of leadership development, communications, and organizational behavior. Engineering students are encouraged to complete the certificate by planning ahead to find dual credit courses, counting for both the major and certificate.

Employers are looking for students actively developing their technical and leadership skills. Engineering graduates from Iowa State University are sought out for the knowledge and expertise in the field, and employers are even more impressed with graduates who can demonstrate leadership skill development with a certificate in leadership studies.

Engage your student in a conversation about leadership and how they plan to develop as a leader while attending Iowa State. In addition to all the extra-curricular opportunities on campus, we encourage students to participate in a leadership course early on, and to enroll in the leadership certificate to have the fullest experience.

You and your student can learn more online at: cattcenter.las.iastate.edu/leadership.

Contact Us

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