PEER CHAMPIONS IN THE FYE CLASSROOMS: A HIGH-IMPACT MODEL FOR STUDENT ENGAGEMENT AND SUCCESS

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THE GOOD NEWS!

Our FYE /IDS 101 Model:

• Helps transition students to college
• Creates a student cohort
• Utilizes Peer Champions/Mentors to enhance student learning
• Includes a variety of co-curricular, engagement activities and experiences
• Gives students many opportunities to experience HIPs
• Linking IDS 101 creates relevance by using the content from the General Education course to teach and apply student success skills
HIGH IMPACT PRACTICES: FIRST-YEAR SEMINARS, LEARNING COMMUNITIES, SERVICE LEARNING, UNDERGRADUATE RESEARCH, INTEGRATED APPROACHES

General Education Seminars:
IDS 101-120

- IDS 101: First-Year Experience (FYE) (1 cr.)
- Linked to General Education Courses (3 cr.)
- IDS 102: Service Learning (1 cr.)
- IDS 103: Leadership (1 cr.)
- IDS 104: Research (1 cr.)
- IDS 105: Interdisciplinary Weekend (1 cr.)
- IDS 106: Career Exploration (1 cr.)
- IDS 108: Wellness (1 cr.)
- IDS 110: The Choices we Make (1 cr.)
- IDS 115: STEM Exploration (1 cr.)
- IDS 119: Diversity Summit (1 cr.)
- IDS 120: Money Matters: Personal Finance
WHY PEER MENTORS/CHAMPIONS IN THE FYE CLASSROOM?

Middlesex Community College supports *High-Impact Practices*, such as peer mentors in the classroom. Studies show that having student leaders assist in the classroom leads to better grades, persistence, retention and overall satisfaction among students and faculty. At MCC the peer mentors in the classroom are known as *First-Year Champions*.

Peer Champions are contributing to student engagement and success.

[www.middlesex.mass.edu/fye](http://www.middlesex.mass.edu/fye)
SO YOU WANT TO BE A PEER MENTOR/CHAMPION!

• Nomination/Application
• Criteria
• Supervision
• Duties
• Training/Meetings

https://www.middlesex.mass.edu/studentactivities/peermentor.aspx
https://www.middlesex.mass.edu/studentactivities/suga.aspx
FYE FACULTY, STUDENTS AND PEER CHAMPION IN THE CLASSROOM
ENGAGEMENT ACTIVITIES

• Distribution of food baskets to needy families
• Food for Thought- Lester’s Roadside BBQ
• Food for Thought- Trip to Cobblestone
• Trip to Sky Zone Boston
• Food for Thought- Brew'd Awakening
• Food for Thought - Cobblestones Restaurant
• Food for Thought - El Potro Mexican Bar & Grill
• Food for Thought - Miya Japanese Restaurant
• Food for Thought- Pizza party
• Trip to Mandarin Asian Bistro
• Sub Party
• Field trip to Booth Mills Museum
• Trip to Altitude in Billerica
ENGAGEMENT ACTIVITIES CONT.

- Food for Thought - Pizza party
- Food for Thought - Breakfast
- Food for Thought - Continental Breakfast
- Trip to Bedford Farm Ice-cream
- Dinner at TreMonte Restaurant
- Trip to Museum of Science
- Trip to MFA
- Trip to New England Aquarium
- Food for Thought - Breakfast at Owl Diner
- Food for Thought - Chipotle Lunch
- Food for Thought - Breakfast
FYE STUDENTS, FACULTY & PEER CHAMPION TRIP TO MFA
1. Student Mentorship

2. School Resource Advocate

3. FYE Class Assistant
FYE CHAMPION

4. Student/Instructor Facilitator

5. Event/Activity Organizer
BENEFITS OF MENTORSHIP

• Increased Academic Achievement
• Accelerated Adaptation
• Awareness of Opportunities
• Connected to Resources & Services
• Develop Positive Skills and Behaviors
FYE Champion

Provides Mentorship by:

• Informing Students of Resources

• Explain Process & Procedures

• Review Class Assignments
RESOURCE ADVOCATE

• Provides Weekly Announcements

• Email Newsletter

• 1 on 1 Meeting Times for Students
CLASS ASSISTANT

• Maintains Class Attendance

• Collects Assignments

• Material Distribution

• Tutor for Class Assignments
FACILITATOR

• Bridge: Instructor / Students

• Review Assignments b/Submission

• Leader for Group Classwork
EVENT ORGANIZER
WITHOUT A PEER MENTOR

• Knew the instructor, but no formal meeting

• Many students did not see the two courses as linked courses
WITH A PEER MENTOR (SEMESTER 1)

• Both were unsure at first

• Reminder

• Food for Thought
WITH A PEER MENTOR (SEMESTER 2)

• Active Mentor

• Food for Thought plus activity

• Course Map
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