



College Program in Exemplary Mentoring Mentoring for Success in Research and Leadership Graduate Learning Community

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Background and History

This began as a one-year Graduate Student Learning Community funded originally by a grant from the Office of Graduate and Professional Studies at Texas A&M University. After two successful years, the program was expanded to a two-year program and submitted for a Sloan Foundation Program in Exemplary Mentoring (PEM) Grant, which was successful and funded the program for another three years. The program is now sustained by the College. We are in the 8th cohort and have served 113 diversity graduate students.

Goals:

- 1) Recruit and matriculate outstanding underrepresented minority (URM) and diversity graduate students, especially those populations at higher risk of success.
- 2) Establish a learning community to promote retention, successful integration into graduate school, decrease time to degree, and develop leadership and mentor/mentee skills.
- 3) Provide cohort-based and targeted professional development.

What is a Learning Community?

(from http://cirtl.net/pillars_LC.html)

Learning Communities bring people together for shared learning, discovery, and the generation of knowledge. Within a learning community (LC), all participants take responsibility for achieving the learning goals. Importantly, learning communities are the process by which individuals come together to achieve learning goals. These learning goals can be specific to individual courses and activities or can be those that guide an entire teaching and learning enterprise. The following four core ideas are central to the Learning Community process:

- Shared discovery and learning
- Functional connections among learners
- Connections to other related learning and life experiences
- Inclusive learning environment

Learning Outcomes:

- To understand the culture of graduate school.
- To understand the “written” and “unwritten” expectations of graduate students.
- To grow as an individual by taking ownership and responsibility of one’s graduate training.
- To develop an appreciation for different research approaches and the scientific method.
- To develop and appreciation of research-based and professional graduate programs.
- To develop team and leadership skills.
- To realize that graduate school is not just research and courses, but also is the developmental phase of the next step in one’s career.

MODEL

College Program in Exemplary Mentoring (PEM) Mentoring for Success in Research and Leadership Graduate Learning Community

Two Year Program

