

Peer pressure?

Students could help each other in innovative mentoring program

By Mari Ostbye
Staff Writer

Did you ever think, "Gee, I wish I knew that when I was a freshman," or "Really! I was supposed to do that freshman year?"

Penn State Delaware County campus is setting the wheels in motion for a peer counseling program that will allow upperclassmen to serve as mentors and confidants to incoming students, as well as intermediaries between the incoming students and faculty, staff, and administration.

The goals for this new program are multi-fold:

- To assist incoming students as they try to adjust to college life at Penn State Delco

- To ensure all incoming students feel welcome

- To help freshmen make a connection with an upper class student.

The goal is also to direct the program towards keeping students here. With early intervention, school leaders can learn about and react promptly individual student problems or challenges.

As research has shown repeatedly, it is student peers who are the most potent source of influence on growth and development during college years. Peers have more influence than any other source (faculty, curriculum, etc.). The peer counseling program is designed to direct that peer influence in the best way possible.

Bottom line? This will help fresh-

men adjust better, develop good academic habits early, learn about PSU policies, rules, traditions, and important deadlines earlier. They will have someone to turn to with difficult questions and issues.

For students who become peer counselors, there are benefits too.

- Earn academic credits
- Share knowledge
- Gain work-related experience
- Learn how to work with and for a team

Peer mentors also have the opportunity to serve as role models and work more closely with faculty and staff in a more professional role.

"We need 30-40 students in order to get this program rolling," said Doreen Hettich-Atkins, Director of

Student Life at Penn State Delco. "Also, if you know anyone you feel would be a good mentor, recommend them."

The course is open for registration now.

The course is CNED 304, and it starts as soon as next semester.

All students will receive full training as part of the program, so even if you don't feel you have the necessary skills now, you will.

For more information or comments, contact Doreen M. Hettich-Atkins, Director of Student Life, Penn State Delaware County, phone: (610) 892-1331 or fax (610) 892-1358, e-mail zd1@psu.edu, or drop by her office on the second floor of the Commons.

Celebrating with family

Penn State Delco celebrated its third annual Family Day Oct. 14. The event was a success with a little more than 150 people in attendance on the beautiful fall day.

There was a free bar-b-que and many different demonstrations and events for all who came out.

The karate club performed demonstrations and even the dance team came out to show their spirit. The Nittany Lion was found wandering through the campus greeting visitors. Young children ran around between the various campus organizations who had many events geared specifically for the young ones.

There was a campus history tour and a panel discussion on the changing roles of parents when their children go off to college.

For those who didn't attend, you missed a very enjoyable afternoon. Maybe next year you'll think twice about missing Family Day and come join in the fun.

— ANTEIA CONSORTO



Photos by
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Students, staff and a few young visitors came to celebrate Penn State's family Oct. 14.

