



Working Team Meeting

Individualized Kessler Scholar Support

March 2023

Agenda Overview

- Introductions and Updates
- Overview: Individualized Guidance for Kessler Scholars
- Peer Mentor Programs to Support Mentees and Mentors
- Professional Staff Engagement Across the College Journey
- Next Steps and Looking Ahead



A Few Reminders...

- Lunch & Learn optional session: Tuesday, March 14
- Campus Partner Program Planners due Friday, March 31
- Summer convening registration due Monday, April 3

The Collaborative team is available to address any questions you may have about planners or summer convening - **please reach out!**

Individualized Support for Kessler Scholars

The Kessler Scholars Program model is built around cohort-based engagement.

Cohort structure allows students to be part of a supportive community of peers navigating similar questions and challenges across college journey.

To assure holistic student support, cohort activities are paired with structured individualized support for students, tailored across their college journey:

- **Peer Mentoring:** Support for incoming students during their first-year experience provided (as possible) by older Kessler Scholars
- **Professional Staff Guidance:** One-on-one staff and scholar meetings across the student's undergraduate journey

Kessler Scholars Peer Mentoring

What we know...

Peer mentoring helps first-year students adapt to their new environment and can lead to positive outcomes such as **academic performance**, **belonging**, and **well-being**.

Peer mentoring programs are also a promising way to promote **leadership development** in students who serve as mentors.

Opportunity to reveal **hidden curriculum** and develop **social and cultural capital**

What we do...

- Structure support focused on first-year college transition and experience
- Provide training, supervision, and ongoing leadership development for mentors
- Establish methods to track engagement and concerns

How Peer Mentors Make a Difference

- Share their experiences
- Offer strategies to overcome challenges
- Introduce campus resources
- Offer new ideas and ways of thinking
- Normalize help-seeking behaviors
- Identify obstacles to student success
- Provide words of encouragement and validation
- Introduce program activities and traditions
- Explain how to succeed and thrive
- Offer a bridge to the student experience



*Adopted from [Mentor Collective](#)

Activity: Putting Peer Mentorship into Action

- Peer Mentoring Core Elements:
 - Got it, Need it, Need to know more
 - Planning activity worksheet
- Inaugural partner share-out
- Questions, lessons learned from all



Staff Guidance: Structuring 1:1 Connection

What it is:

Dedicated time to connect, build rapport, and assess each student's experience

What it is not:

A replacement for student meetings with designated academic advisors, connection with faculty and other campus-based advisors and mentors

Key features:

- Required for all Kessler Scholars, across all undergraduate years
- Driven by proactive and affirmative outreach from program staff, not a crisis or critical incident response
- Guided conversation intended to support and build student sense of belonging, mattering, and commitment to persist

Optimizing One-on-One Scholar Engagement

Potential Topics:

- Academic and social integration and self-efficacy
- Career exploration and planning
- Issues, concerns, accomplishments that otherwise might not be heard
- Planning for high-impact practice engagement, including research opportunities, internships, and study abroad

Supporting individual student engagement:

- Who is going to be part of the team to manage these interactions in a meaningful way?
- How can you model a case-management approach, including tracking
- How will you manage follow-up for issues raised? How can student peer mentors appropriately support that process?



Meeting Schedule

Working Team	Campus Partners	Team Meeting Dates	Meeting Topic
A-Plus Advocates	Brown University Cornell University University of Michigan UNC-Chapel Hill	May 11, 3 - 4 pm ET June 8, 3 - 4 pm ET	Scholar Leadership and Input Year-end Reflections
Better Together	Syracuse University Ohio State University UC-Riverside University of Dayton	May 10, 1 - 2 pm ET June 7, 1 - 2 pm ET	Scholar Leadership and Input Year-end Reflections
Creative Collaborators	Bates College Centre College St. Francis College Saint Mary's College	May 17, 10 - 11 am ET June 14, 10 - 11 am ET	Scholar Leadership and Input Year-end Reflections
The DreamMakers	Johns Hopkins University Queens College University of Pittsburgh Wash. University in St. Louis	May 18, 11a - 12 pm ET June 15, 11a - 12 pm ET	Scholar Leadership and Input Year-end Reflections

Save the Dates:

Lunch & Learn:

Tuesday, March 14
12:00 - 1:00 PM ET

All-Campus Partner Meeting:

Thursday, April 20
1:00 - 2:30 PM ET
Program Launch & Summer Support

Summer Convening:

July 25-26, 2023
Cornell University,
Ithaca NY

Toward Continuous Improvement

We welcome your feedback!

- In our work together, Collaborative staff will build in regular points for your feedback and input
- Please stay online for a few last minutes to complete a brief survey about today's meeting



Thank you! We will see you next time!