



# Implementation of International Certified Training Protocols through Learning Communities: Developing Professionalism and Fostering Leadership Among Mentor and Mentee Medical Students

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### INTRODUCTION

The peer mentor program at Wayne State University School of Medicine (WSU SoM) was designed to support the matriculating student by providing resources to be successful throughout medical school. The purpose is to encourage diverse student interactions, professionalism, networking, empowerment, and student satisfaction.

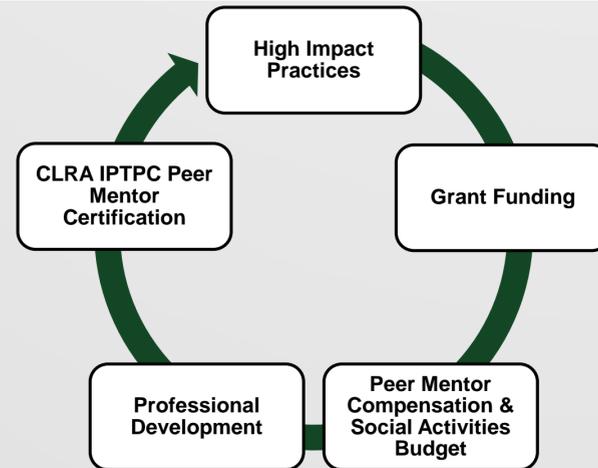
Social engagement activities and hosted learning community subject-based curriculum discussions are at the core of the program.

Experienced clinical mentors and now trained and certified peer mentors guide the program's high impact practices and enrich student growth.

### PROGRAM OBJECTIVES

- ONE** Acknowledge and sign program expectation agreement
- TWO** Appropriately serve and lead the leaning communities
- THREE** Develop professionalism
- FOUR** Foster leadership

### METHODS



The program task force convenes weekly to continually plan initiatives, trainings, and discuss solutions to common themes discovered by mentor/mentee check-ins. Gauging adequate mentor performance and efficacy of IPTPC training is measured from:

- Periodic mentee focus group meetings aimed to discuss feedback and potential changes for the next mentor year
- Scheduled on-going peer mentor trainings and workshops
- Evaluative survey data collected from mentees that allow peer mentors to rectify areas needing improvement
- The stakeholder retreat where the program and outcomes are analyzed and reviewed for overall assessing

### RESULTS

The mentor year kicked off with the initial 15 hours of peer mentor training and acknowledgement of the program expectations of the mentees and mentors. Peer mentors:

- Check-in at least one time per week with mentees via phone, text, Zoom
- Co-facilitate meet-ups regarding subject based topics for robust and engaging dialogue
- Frequently communicate and collaborate with clinical mentors to coordinate small group professional development and networking opportunities for mentees
- Receive compensation for work, commitment, and dedication that can be used for personal or medical school expenses
- Highlight IPTPC on their individual Medical Student Performance Evaluation (MSPE) letters and Curriculum Vitae (CV) for next level recognition as potential resident/physician.

### RESULTS

The peer mentor program provides resources and structure to/for matriculating medical students. The peer mentors lead some of the high impact practice initiatives (e.g. year long projects, service learning, structured learning opportunities) that assisted in receiving grant funding.

The funding is used to:

- compensate the peer mentors
- provide a budget for social activities
- further encourage professional development.

Specifics of the grant also certifies the WSU SoM learning community peer mentors through the College Reading and Learning Association (CRLA).

### CONCLUSION

Each of the carefully selected peer mentors from each learning community is on track to complete the service hours to receive IPTP certification. The workshops and topic-specific trainings such as the Value of Mentorship and Coaching to a Solution contribute toward the hours to certify. So far, 93% of the new students state the peer mentor program is helping him/her successfully navigate medical school. 86% said they see themselves using their peer mentor longitudinally to improve their medical school experience. The taskforce is confident that preparation and training is the reason students are satisfied.