Student Success Center Peer Leader Training
Cohort:
Fundamentals of Peer Leadership – Spring 2023
FACILITATORS: Joshua Dunn & Anna Michelitch
Each Cohort is facilitated by a pair of SSC Staff Members, typically a professional staff member/program coordinator and a graduate assistant or experienced peer leader.

Cohort Description
The Cohort provides in-depth training on peer mentoring and peer leadership for all new student leaders employed with the Student Success Center (SSC). The purpose of this experience is threefold: to introduce peer leaders to the philosophies behind and practices of effective peer-to-peer academic facilitation, to help peer leaders implement these methods in their interactions with student participants, and to guide peer leaders in the process of reflecting on and evaluating their own individual facilitation style.

Learning Outcomes
As a result of the Cohort, participants will…

1. Understand and apply self-regulated learning pedagogy.
2. Understand the principles of effective peer-to peer academic mentoring
3. Develop multi-cultural competency and awareness of diversity
4. Adapt and apply effective facilitation techniques and appropriate academic strategies
5. Recognize learning processes and incorporate them into the session
6. Effectively integrate Peer Leadership role and personal development
7. Reflect upon and improve performance as a peer leader by identifying areas for improvement and setting goals
8. Develop an understanding of the academic needs of the UofSC student body and college students more generally
9. Develop a working knowledge of SSC services to foster effective referring skills

Cohort Certification
The SSC has been certified by the College Reading and Learning Association (CRLA) for our professional standards of skill and training. The Cohort topics chosen for this continuous training process are intentionally-designed to create, improve, and expand your Peer Leader experience.

Methods
Each meeting is dedicated to studying a particular strategy or topic via discussions, activities, videos, and small group work. Overall, the Cohort is highly interactive. We will read and discuss relevant articles and videos, and complete reflections relevant to your Peer Leader experience.

Attendance
The Cohort serves as continuous (paid) training, and attendance is of critical importance to your learning, as well as to the experience of your peers as they attend your sessions. The focus of the Cohort is experiential learning rather than lectures. As such, attendance is both essential and mandatory. You are expected to attend **every session**. If you are going to be absent, please let the facilitator know ahead of time and make a plan to attend one of the other Cohort meetings offered during the same week. Switching cohorts should be used no more than twice a semester. If you need to switch more than twice, please talk to your facilitator.

Students with Disabilities
USC provides high-quality services to students with disabilities, and we encourage you to take advantage of them. Students with disabilities needing academic accommodations should: (1) Register with and provide documentation to the Office of Student Disability Services in LeConte College Room 112A, and (2) Discuss with the facilitator the type of academic or physical accommodations you need. Please do this as soon as possible, preferably within the first week of your Cohort's meetings. *All Cohort materials will be made available in alternative format upon request.*

Expectations of Cohort Participants

"The community of scholars at the University of South Carolina is dedicated to personal and academic excellence. Choosing to join the community obligates each member to the Carolinian Creed. Academic dialogue and civil discourse are the cornerstone of the educational system and crucial to individual growth. Students are encouraged to practice personal and academic integrity, respect the rights and dignity of all persons, respect the rights and property of others, discourage bigotry, while striving to learn from differences in people, ideas, and opinions, and demonstrate concern for others, their feelings, and their need for conditions which support their work and development." (Carolinian Creed Website: https://www.sa.sc.edu/creed/faculty-resources/) *Essentially, disruptive or divisive behavior will not be tolerated.*

REQUIREMENTS/ASSIGNMENTS

Participation
Cohort is an integral part of your job at the Student Success Center, and should be treated as such. Please note that attendance is not the same as participation. Cohort Everyone must make an effort to contribute to the discussions each meeting, while also leaving room for others to contribute. Students are expected to arrive on time and to come prepared. Not participating in meetings may result in a meeting with the facilitator. **Keep your cellphone in your backpack**.

Major Assignments
All three major assignments are required to successfully complete your Cohort experience and thus continue your employment with the SSC. Details for submitting digital assignments will be discussed in your Cohort meeting.

DESCRIPTION OF ASSIGNMENTS

Core Assignments – Complete these 3 projects:

1) **Inspiration Presentation – Due throughout the semester**
   a. For this assignment you will choose a quote, story, video clip, image, etc. that inspires you in your role as Peer Leader. Each person will have the opportunity to present that inspiration at the beginning of a Cohort meeting. A sign-up sheet will be posted on Blackboard so that you can choose your time slot. The presentation

should be 2-3 minutes long and should include 1) the piece of inspiration, 2) why it is inspiring to you, and 3) **how it is relevant to your experience as a Peer Leader.**

2) **Shadow a Peer Leader and Prepare a One (1) Page Reflection – Due week 6**
For this assignment you will shadow an appointment/session of a returner or Peer Mentor (i.e. Tutoring and SI Program Assistant/Mentors) per your area's preference. During the session/appointment, you will use the program's observation form to evaluate the experience. There forms will be available on Blackboard. **Please complete your observation early** to give yourself time to submit the one-page reflection. Your reflection should touch on what you learned and how this experience will enhance your effectiveness as a Peer Leader (please also submit the scanned copy of your observation form).

3) **Peer Leader Philosophy Statement – Due at end of cohort**
   a. For your final assignment you will draft and submit a peer leadership philosophy statement that reflects the values and experiences that have shaped your first semester of SSC peer leadership. In your statement, you should address the values and beliefs that shape how you perform your role and include at least one concrete experience from your first semester as an SSC Peer Leader that demonstrates how you applied those values. Be sure to connect these experiences to one or more key concepts that you learned while in cohort. Benefits of Peer Leadership
   b. For your philosophy statement you may cite sources provided in Cohort and any you find on your own. Your statement should be 1-2 pages, double-spaced.
   c. For a more detailed breakdown of the assignment, please refer to the assignment sheet (found in blackboard)
   d. The philosophy statement will be submitted in your intent to return as a condition of reemployment

SYLLABUS CLAUSE AND CONTRACT
This syllabus may be revised and adapted throughout the semester to better serve the needs of the Peer Leaders in the Cohort. The facilitator may assign additional reading and/or assignments, as needed. Additionally, decision to remain in the Cohort upon receipt of this syllabus serves as the Peer Leaders' acceptance of this Cohort as a mandatory requirement of them in their first semester as an employee of the SSC.

SUCCESSFUL COMPLETION AND SUBSEQUENT EMPLOYMENT
Peer Leaders must meet all Cohort requirements in order to be rehired for the following semester, which means meeting attendance expectations, participating fully, and completing/submitting assignments by provided deadlines. Cohort Facilitators and Program

Coordinators (Peer Leader supervisors) will use discretion and may implement specific expectations to ensure accountability of attendance and assignments.

Course Calendar

Week	Topic	In Class videos / Readings	Homework (what's due)
Week 1 Jan 23rd – 27th	The Purpose of Higher Education	None	
Week 2 Jan 30tht – Feb 3rd	What is a Peer Leader?	"The boost students need to overcome obstacles" by Anindya Kundu (Video)	
Week 3 Feb 6th – Feb 10th	Effective Questioning	None	Facilitator Inspiration Presentation Demo
Week 4 Feb 13th – 17th	Inclusive Communication	"10 Ways to Have a Better Conversation" by Celeste Headlee (Video)	Inspiration Presentation
Week 5 Feb 20th – 24th	Implicit Bias and Microaggressions	"The Danger of a Single Story" by Chimamanda Ngozi Adichie (Video)	Inspiration Presentation
Week 6 Feb 27th – Mar 3rd	Bloom's Taxonomy	None	Inspiration Presentation Shadow a Peer Leader Reflection Due Mar. 3rd
Week 7 Mar 6th – 10th		Spring Break – No Cohort	
Week 8 Mar 13th – 17th	Working Memory	"How Your 'Working Memory' Makes Sense of the World" by Peter Doolittle (Video)	Inspiration Presentation
Week 9 Mar 20th – 24th	Study Skills	"What Works, What Doesn't by Dunlosky, Rawson, Marsh, Nathan, and Willingham (PDF in Blackboard under "Videos and Readings")	Inspiration Presentation
Week 10 Mar 27th – Mar 31st	Supporting Neurodivergent Students	"ADHD sucks, but not really" by Salif Mahamane (Video)	Inspiration Presentation
Week 11 Apr 3rd – 7th	What was that all about?	None	Inspiration Presentation

			Peer Leader Philosophy Due Apr 7th