PARDner Program: Peer Mentor Job Description
CONNECTED COMMUNITIES PROGRAM

“...The strongest single source of influence on cognitive and affective development is the student’s peer group... [which has] enormous potential for influencing virtually all aspects of the student’s educational and personal development.” (Astin 1996, 126)

The PARDner Program aims to assist students in their transition, development, and success at Lafayette College from New Student Orientation through the end of their sophomore year as a part of the Connected Communities Program (CCP). The CCP will effectively engage through programming, regular individual and group interactions, and the formation of lasting community. The CCP also endeavors to create opportunities for intellectual engagement within the residential communities and connecting students’ academic experiences with their residential ones. The College is looking for vibrant student leaders who have a passion for guiding new students throughout important, formative years of their Lafayette experience.

The PARDner Package:
Recognized as a campus leader and an integral component to the CCP’s success
Develop teamwork, mentoring, advising, and presentation skills
Create lasting friendships/bonds with fellow PARDners and students
Network with campus and community partners (including faculty and staff)
Cultivate and participate in shared traditions with classmates
Ability to move in early to assist with New Student Orientation
Paid $500 per semester of employment
Other opportunities as a part of the Connected Communities Program

PARDner Role/Responsibilities:
3-4 hours/week over a 2-year commitment
Participation in two spring training sessions
Return to campus early in the fall for training and to assist with New Student Orientation
Matched with a group of first-year students (may have a co-PARDner)
Bi-monthly individual and group check-ins with group of first –year students (Note: you are also encouraged to check in with students outside of these structured check-in sessions)
Support residence life staff with in-hall programs/events (e.g. by attending some of their floor programs)
Attend monthly group and Class-wide events to build community & Class unity (you will work closely with members of the 184th class of students)
Develop meaningful, lasting relationships with students and other PARDners
Offer academic support and guidance to students
Consistently role model positive behavior and champion community expectations
Hold oneself to the highest standards of conduct and behavior
Hold peers accountable for their actions and set a positive example for students by exhibiting community values and College expectations
Demonstrate a commitment to academic success

Qualifications/Expectations*:
Must be a rising junior to apply; 2-year commitment (through senior year)
Ability to work effectively both individually and as part of a team
Interest in building relationships with peers and first-year students
Must be able to attend all mandated training sessions, events, and workshops
Demonstrate appropriate balance between academic and social life
Collaborate with campus and community partners to enhance PARDnerships
Willingness to candidly share experiences and resources that can help others achieve success
Availability to regularly meet with students one-on-one and in group settings
*Students who participate in the PARDner program must be present and actively engaged in Campus Life throughout the 2-year term. If you are interested in studying abroad in the spring term of your junior year or fall term of your senior year, please indicate that on your application and, if you are selected, the committee will attempt to place you in a PARDnership with another PARDner who will not be abroad during those semesters to ensure continuity for students.

If you have questions about the position or the application process, please contact one of the following people:
  Billie Weiss, Project Director (weissb@lafayette.edu)
  Paul McLoughlin, Dean of Students (mcloughp@lafayette.edu)
  Erica D'Agostino, Dean of Academic Advising and Co-Curricular Programs (dagostie@lafayette.edu)