College of Natural Sciences Learning Community (CNSLC)
Peer Academic Leader (PAL)
Position Description and Application Instructions
Academic Year 2015 – 2016

Position Description

The CNSLC is a residential learning community for undergraduate students with majors in the College of Natural Sciences (Applied Computing Technology, Biochemistry, Biological Science, Chemistry, Computer Science, Mathematics, Natural Sciences, Neuroscience, Physics, Psychology, Statistics, and Zoology). All residents in the CNSLC live together in either Alpine or Piñon Halls.

The CNSLC PALs will play an important role in the academic and developmental success of the CNSLC first-year residents. The transition from high school to college is challenging for many first-year students, and the added stress of the rigorous coursework encountered in STEM majors can make that transition even more difficult. The CNSLC PALs will create safe and collaborative environments for the first-year students by leading study sessions, and planning academic programs.

All CNSLC PALs will report directly to the Director of the Learning Community, and indirectly to the CNSLC PAL Coordinator. They will also collaborate with CNSLC Resident Assistants.

Required Qualifications

- Currently-enrolled, full-time student at Colorado State University in good standing, with a minimum of 28 credits completed at CSU.
- Have a declared first or second major of: Applied Computing Technology, Biochemistry, Biological Science, Chemistry, Computer Science, Mathematics, Natural Sciences, Neuroscience, Physics, Psychology, Statistics, or Zoology.
- Be a member of the CNSLC (for information on applying to become a member of the CNSLC, visit: www.natsci.colostate.edu/cnslc).
- Be comfortable tutoring first-year students in at least one of the following subjects: Mathematics (MATH 117, MATH 118, MATH 124, MATH 125, MATH 126, MATH 160), Chemistry (CHEM 111, CHEM 113), and/or Biology (LIFE 102, LIFE 103); and be familiar with the PACe program.
- Be able to show sensitivity to individual concerns, contexts, and differences, and refrain from engaging in any incidents of prejudice related to gender, race, ethnic origin, sexual orientation, religion, age, ability, or appearance.
Preferred Qualifications

- A cumulative CSU GPA of 2.5 or higher at time of application
- Event or program-planning skills
- Knowledge of CSU campus resources
- Desire to work with both students and faculty/staff members
- Experience with learning communities at Colorado State University
- Ability to adapt to a changing work environment, including changing programs and/or expectations.

Responsibilities

- Work 5-10 hours a week, a minimum of 3 hours facilitating two 1.5 hour study sessions in Laurel Village in an agreed-upon academic subject.
- Plan one academic program each semester with an RA in Laurel Village. This will include collaborating with the RA and with the faculty/staff liaisons in developing and planning the program, finding resources, and making arrangements for activities
- Hold monthly planning meetings with the SAHE practicum graduate student, and attend weekly, one-hour CNSLC PAL meetings.
- Move into Laurel Village two days before the CNSLC residents (August 17, 2015).*
- Participate in all PAL trainings on Monday, August 17, 2015, and Tuesday August 18, 2015.
- Plan for and assist with welcoming new CNSLC members on move-in day (August 19, 2015).
- Participate in Ram Welcome College Activities, including the Learning Community PAL orientation for first-year students.
- Other duties as assigned.

* The charge normally associated with an early move-in will be paid for by the Department of Housing & Dining and the College of Natural Sciences. PALs will not be assessed an additional charge for early move-in.

Remuneration

The CNSLC PAL position is a 9-month position for the academic year 2015 – 2016. PALs will receive an hourly wage of $10 for a maximum of 150 hours per semester. This position requires a work-study award.

To apply

Please submit a copy of your current resume electronically to Lisa Dysleski at lisa.dysleski@colostate.edu. The application deadline is December 12, 2014, at 5 p.m.