PEER ASSISTED LEARNING – FACILITATOR APPLICATION

What is Peer-Assisted Learning?

Peer-Assisted Learning (PAL) is a curricular structure that encourages cross-year support between students in science and math gateway courses. PAL encourages students to learn co-operatively under the guidance of trained students, called PAL Facilitators, who have been very successful (earned a high grade) in the same course they facilitate.

At Sacramento State University, PAL is intended to help students:

- adjust to the rigorous expectations of science/math gateway courses
- acquire a clear view of course direction and expectations
- develop their independent learning and study skills to meet the requirements of higher education
- enhance their understanding of the subject matter of their course through collaborative group discussion
- prepare better for assessed work and examinations

Other “intangible” benefits of PAL include increased cohesion of the students with their peers, reassurance about study concerns and increased confidence.

Peer Assisted Learning is NOT:

- teaching by student
- targeted at weak or problem students - all participants will benefit
- a means of reducing existing lecturer - student contact
- an environment for social chatting

Expectations of PAL Facilitators

PAL is run by students for students, with curricular design and support from faculty. Content for PAL sessions is decided upon by the lead faculty member and is based on novel course materials that will be provided to all PAL facilitators.

* Content Knowledge: All PAL facilitators will be specifically trained in the course materials prior to the beginning of their PAL course. If you don’t remember everything from the time you took the course, that’s fine, but you should be able to quickly re-learn it.

• Friendly, open, encouraging attitude: PAL facilitators are expected to facilitate collaborative discussions about topics, and must be able to help create a productive atmosphere for learning
INTRODUCTORY SCIENCE PEER LEADER APPLICATION – due April 11, 2014
[turn in to Dr. Lundmark in the Biology Department Office]

1. General Information

First Name: ___________________  Last name: ____________________________

Major: ______________________  Overall GPA: ______

Phone (during semester): ________________________________

Phone (during breaks, if different): __________________________

e-mail: _______________________________________________________

Peer Facilitators are needed for several different courses. Please list the introductory (lower division) courses completed in math (calculus only) and science (chemistry, physics, biology).

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>COURSE</th>
<th>INSTITUTION Where you took course</th>
<th>GRADE RECEIVED</th>
<th>SEMESTER/YEAR You took Course</th>
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Course(s) for which you are interested in serving as a PAL Facilitator:

___ Chem 4  ___ Chem 1A  ___ Chem 1B  ___ Math 29  ___ Math 30  ___ Math 31

___ Physics 11A  ___ BIO 121  ___ BIO 131

When do you plan to graduate (if known)? __________________________

2. What has motivated you to apply to become a PAL (Peer) Facilitator?

3. What do you feel you can share with a group of introductory students to help make their learning more effective and enjoyable?
4. Availability

PAL Facilitators are paid to:
- attend the lectures for the course to which their PAL section is attached (3-4 hrs/week, depending on discipline)
- meet with their PAL section for 2 hrs/week
- hold office hours for students in the course (2-3 hrs/week). NOTE: During your first semester as a PAL Facilitator for a course, you will hold 2 office hours and will be paid for 1 hour of prep. After your first semester of experience, prep will be minimal (covered in PAL class, NSM 197), and you will hold 3 office hours/week.

Total pay should be ~ 8-9 hrs/week @ $11.09/hr.

In addition, all PAL Facilitators must enroll in NSM 197, a 2 unit course (meeting 2 hrs/week) that will provide you with background in pedagogy and group learning and an opportunity to run through the problem sets prior to your actual PAL session. For Fall, 2014 NSM 197 will be held on Thursdays from 4:20-6:00 pm. If you cannot accept the units due to enrollment limitations, we can discuss options, but attendance is mandatory.

Do you have the time to meet these requirements? ________________ (YES/NO)

PAL Facilitator training will consist of 5 hours of intensive, mandatory sessions on Monday, August 26 and/or Tuesday, August 27. Will you be available for this training? _____ (YES/NO)

5. Reference

Please provide the name, e-mail, and phone number of at least one CSUS faculty member who can attest to your suitability for this position.

5. Interviews

Interviews of potential PAL Facilitators will be held during the Spring, 2014 semester (late April, early May). Please indicate days and times when you have breaks that would allow you to interview (exact dates to be confirmed later). Interviews typically last 15-20 minutes.

Days and times that I am generally available to interview: