



Asian American and Asian
Resource and Cultural Center

2020 AAARCC Summer Mentoring Program Handbook



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Welcome, Class of 2024!

Congratulations on your acceptance and enrollment to Purdue University. As our effort to help you find a community and thrive in your new academic settings, we created this 2020 AAARCC Summer Mentoring Program (SMP) opportunity to connect with our current student leaders at Purdue! This 2020 AAARCC SMP Handbook gives you all the information you need about this mentoring program.

The 2020 AAARCC Summer Mentoring Program (SMP) is a 10-week program with alternating virtual group sessions and virtual individual check-ins happening every week, led by student/peer mentors. In addition, participants will join in three virtual gatherings that the AAARCC is planning: Welcome Event, Mid-Program Event, and Closing Event. By participating in this program, you will connect with our student leaders and student organizations, get a lot of insider tips about academic and social life at Purdue, and get an early start on your college experience!

There are many ways to get involved on campus and one of those ways is by joining a student organization! Our peer mentors represent some of the Asian interest student organizations that the AAARCC supports. For a list of organizations, please click [here](#)!

If you are interested in participating in our peer mentoring program as a Mentor or Mentee, please register at [this link](#) by Friday, June 5th, 2020 and you will receive a response. Important dates:

- Monday, June 8th, 2020: Announcement about mentor-mentee assignments
- Friday, June 12th at 3:00 PM EDT: Welcome Event (on Zoom)
- Wednesday, July 22nd at 3:00 PM EDT: Mid-Point Check-In (on Zoom)
- Wednesday, August 19th at 3:00 PM EDT: Closing Event (on Zoom)

Throughout the program, we ask that you please fill out a [short evaluation](#) every week as you complete the group mentoring time as well as the individual mentoring time. If you have any questions, comments, or concerns, please feel free to contact us!

Best Regards,

Purdue Asian American & Asian Resource and Cultural Center Staff

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Schedule and Materials**Week 1 - Introduce yourselves (June 14 - 20)**

(Image 1. Wong Fu Productions' Discussion + Meet & Greet, AAARCC Event Spring 2019)

Welcome to the first week of the Peer Mentoring Program!

There is a chance that you may know someone in your group but we invite you to get to know everyone in your group! Share information that you're comfortable sharing.

Discussion Points:

- Introduce yourself and remember everyone's name. Here is an example of a fun way to introduce yourself:
 - 1) Adjective Me
You have to pick an adjective that "describes" you, for example "Magnificent Manabu," or "Pretty Pam." Say it to the group, and then the second person has to repeat your full name (with the adjective) and state their name, and so on.
- Current students might share about why they chose Purdue, what they appreciate about the University, their major, etc.
- Incoming students might share about why they chose Purdue, what they are looking forward to, what major they are going for, interests in student organizations, etc.
- Establish ground rules for the group conversations and interactions. We recommend that all groups choose a platform and time that are most accommodating to everyone.
- As a group, select a time that works for each member to gather (virtually) every other week. You will be meeting 5 times as a group (including this session).
- Use this time to also schedule your first individual phone call or video chat with one of your mentors. You will call/video chat with your mentor at least once every other week. This will take place during the weeks you don't meet as a group.

Before you end your first week, don't forget to have some fun by having some [Virtual Games!](#)

At the end of your session, please complete [this quick evaluation](#).

Week 2 - Identity (June 28 - July 4)

Many people are unfamiliar with the fact that Asian Americans have a long and rich history in the United States. Recognizing that we might question ourselves from time to time, it is valuable to develop an understanding of who we are. This week, the topic is about identity.

Begin this week's session by exploring [this timeline](#) of Asian American history and talk about what you learned or what surprised you. After that conversation, watch this [TEDx video](#) by then high schooler, Canwen Xu who shares about her identity as an Asian American.

Discussion Questions:

1. What did you learn from the timeline of Asian American history?
2. Do you live in a community where there are large populations of Asians and Asian Americans or do you live in a community with very few Asians and Asian Americans? What do you think life would be like if you lived in a community that was had a larger or smaller population of Asians and Asian Americans than the one you grew up in?
3. Being Asian American or Asian in the US, have you ever had this thought or heard someone say: "I had 2 choices: Conform to the stereotype that was expected of me or conform to the whiteness that surrounded me"? Is this statement true? Why or why not?
4. Xu says, "the more I rejected my Chinese identity, the more popular I became. My peers liked me more because I was more similar to them." She continues, "as I became more and more Americanized, I also began to lose bits and pieces of myself, parts of me I can never get back." Have you experienced distancing yourself from your own culture/ethnicity?



(Image 2. Building friendships through food + Games. SASE Dumpling Social. Spring 2019)

5. In talking about the way American society perceives Asian Americans, Xu says, “They group us by the color of our skin. They tell us we must reject our own heritages so we can fit in with the crowd. They tell us that our foreignness is the only identifying characteristic of us. They strip away our identities one by one until we are foreign but not quite foreign. American but not quite American. Individual- but only when there are no other people around from our native [heritage] country around.” What do you think about that quote? Is that something you’ve experienced?
6. Xu says, “At what point are people willing to admit that yes- race issues are controversial. But that's precisely the reason why we need to talk about them.” Have you had conversations about race and/or ethnicity? Do you think social media platforms such as FB’s Subtle Asian Traits page and Tik Tok videos supporting Asian Americans are making these conversations more mainstream?
7. What did you take-away (learn) from this video? How can you celebrate your Asian American identities, histories, and practices?

At the end of your session, please complete [this quick evaluation](#).

Week 3 - Community- Building a Sense of Belonging (July 12 - July 18)

Something that is understood by many at Purdue is the importance and value of every Boilermaker having a sense of belonging at University. Having a sense of belonging means many different things but most important among them is having a community to rely on and a way to be involved. This week, we'll be discussing community and the next week- we'll discuss being involved! To begin this week's session, answer the question- what does community mean to you?



(Image 3. Student org leaders and AAARCC staff members during Destination Purdue event. Spring 2020)

The phrase “food brings us together” is a statement that is often true among many communities. However, chef, food writer, speaker, and social entrepreneur Jenny Dorsey asks whether or not the emotional appeal behind that statement has become meaningless. Watch this [TEDx video](#) featuring Chef Dorsey and talk about the discussion questions.

Discussion Questions:

1. As Dorsey says, most “formative moments have started in exceedingly ordinary circumstances.” What are some moments from your life that you’ve felt you’ve belonged or became part of a community?
2. “Food’s soft power is its ability to shape our identities ultimately influencing the way we see ourselves in relation to other people.” Dorsey goes on to share her experience of growing up in the US with parents who immigrated to the US. How has food influenced your perception of yourself and your relations to community?
3. Dorsey says, “There will always be a ‘you’ and a ‘me’.” But when we allow food to reflect our full range of emotions, we also give it the fluidity to find moments

when we occupy the same space.” When was a moment when food brought people from different backgrounds together in your life?

4. What is your favorite memory of eating in a communal setting? (Define community in any way that you would like)
5. What did you take-away (learn) from this video? How did Dorsey’s explanation help us think about larger systemic issues surrounding food: food insecurity, lack of equal access, bias incidents and racism in response to food?

One aspect of community that is important to creating an environment of belonging is having clear communication among those involved. When communication breaks down, it impacts how members of the community relate to one another. While we may not be in the same room together, that doesn’t mean we can communicate with each other! As a group, participate in [this activity](#) of making a picture book one page at a time! See what kind of stories you come up with as a group! To play, one of the mentors will create a room by entering a display name and a numeric room code of their choice. Then click “Create or Join Room” .

At the end of your session, please complete [this quick evaluation](#).

Week 4 - Involvement (July 26 - August 1)

(Image 4. AAARCC Lunar New Year. Spring 2020)

As mentioned on the page of the previous week's session, being involved goes hand-in-hand with being part of a community! Part of this Peer Mentoring Program is to allow participants to get to know one another and the opportunities available to students such as student organizations. During this session, you'll discuss with one another what it means to be involved in a community and play a virtual game!

To begin this week's conversation, mentors please share about your involvement in student organizations:

- How you first became involved
- What activities you did with the organizations
- What you gained from the experience
- What you have enjoyed about it so far
- How incoming students can get involved

Discussion Questions:

1. What are some things you were/are involved with? (student orgs, book clubs, sports teams, religious groups, etc.)
2. What have you learned through your involvement in various groups/clubs?
3. Like many aspects of life, what you get out of experiences is proportionate to what you put into it. How do you plan to be involved with campus during this upcoming semester?

At the end of your session, please complete [this quick evaluation](#).

Week 5 - Leadership (August 9 - 15)

This is the last week of the group sessions for the Summer's Peer Mentoring Program. We hope you've been enjoying this journey! The topic of this week's session is leadership. When we talk about leadership, many different associations may come to mind whether it be formal roles and titles or future aspirations. However, author and social activist Grace Lee Boggs says "We are the leaders we've been waiting for" and in a TED Talk, Leadership Educator Drew Dudley challenges us to think of leadership from a new perspective. To begin, watch [this interview of Boggs](#) and [TED Talk](#). Then as a group, talking through the discussion questions written below.



(Image 5. AAARCC Hosting Dr. Yuri Doolan & Dr. Hetal Patel. Spring 2020)

Discussion Questions:

1. When you hear the word 'leadership' what characteristics come to mind?
2. Who is someone you know that you consider to be a leader?
3. In the first video, author and activist Grace Lee Boggs shares about how a garden is a way that allows people to relate to others and think about her community in different ways. What is something in your life that influences how you think about/relate to others in life?
4. When asked about how people can make a difference, Boggs says "do something local [and] do something real- however small." What is something you can do to support your community?

5. In the second video by Dudley, he shares a story from his life of a student going up to him and remind him of a small action he took that led to a big impact on her life. Do you have a “lollipop moment in your life?” and have you told that person?
6. We all come from different walks of life whether it be backgrounds, communities, or socioeconomic statuses. However, what we all have in common is the potential that is innate in each and every one of us. Dudley says, “As long as we make leadership something bigger and beyond us- as long as we keep leadership something beyond us and make it about changing the world- we give ourselves an excuse not to expect it every day from ourselves and each other.” In what ways do you think you can maximize your potential and positively impact the lives of those around you virtually or in person?
7. What did you take away or learn from these videos?

At the end of your session, please complete [this quick evaluation](#).

Conclusion

As you finish up the Summer Peer Mentoring Program, take a moment to reflect on the experiences and what you’ve learned throughout the summer. We encourage you to write/type out a plan of how you plan to be active and involved with the community at Purdue!

At the beginning of the school year, you will have more opportunities to connect with different [student organizations](#) and learn more about what they have to offer throughout the year. The [Asian American & Asian Resource and Cultural Center](#) is also a source of support and guidance as you navigate through your experiences at Purdue University.

Thank you for participating in this Peer Mentoring Program. We hope you had a positive experience! Please take a moment to fill out [this survey](#) which will help us continue to improve our Peer Mentoring Program.

Asian American and Asian Resource and Cultural Center Summer Peer Mentoring Program is developed by:

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