So, you want to be a Learning Community Coordinator?
(Here’s what you need to know.)

* Being an LCC has a lot of one-on-one contact that requires time and commitment.

* LCC’s are helpers and aid others in encouraging human growth, both personally and professionally.

* LCC’s offer knowledge, insight, perspective or wisdom.

* LCC’s help acculturate and educate students about our system at Minnesota State Mankato.

* LCC’s redirect the student concerning questions that should be taken to an academic advisor or appropriate resource within the university.

* LCC’s respect the uniqueness of the student striving to enhance the special strengths of the person.

* The LCC and student should be clear on expectations you have for one another and what each of you hope to gain from the relationship.

* Types of LCC assistance are: being a friend, doing social activities, listening when the student has a problem, identifying student feelings and verifying them, effectively confronting negative intentions or behaviors, providing appropriate information when needed, and encouraging exploration of options.

* The LCC provides a listening ear without taking on the student’s problem, giving advice or joining in on the “ain’t it terrible” game. Respectful listening is the goal by not injecting your personal view, opinions, or suggestions. A LCC provides ideas or information, when asked, so the student can weave his/her own solution.

* As a LCC, it may be necessary to confront the attitude, behavior, or plans of your student. Use the “I” message confrontation to bring about a helpful change in the student.
  1. A neutral description of what you perceive as the student’s intentions
  2. A statement of the possible negative effects on the student or other people.
  3. The feelings or emotions you are having about the student’s plan.

* The Learning Community Program encourages you, as a LCC, to have contact with your students at least once a week (in the beginning): lunch, coffee break, phone call, etc...

Information taken from Mentoring: A practical guide, Shea, F.G., Crisp Publications: Menlow Park, CA, 92