

# Welcome, all!

## Week 1

### Today, you will...

- Meet your LA cluster
- Discuss our training philosophy & practice
- Learn about the LA role umbrella
- Review the LA syllabus
- Reflect on today's learning

### Today's class prepares you to...

- Build a support network with your LA cluster
- Feel confident in knowing the expectations for the LA role
- Create a script for your K-State First course preview video

# Meet your LA cluster

- Throughout your LA experience, you will be working in small clusters to collaborate, support, and share experiences.
- On your name plates, you'll see your fellow cluster member's names. Find your cluster members, sit together, and discuss the following questions:
  1. Why do you want to be a Learning Assistant?
  2. What do you think is the impact of peer mentor roles like Learning Assistants?
- Part of the role is engaging in conversations and meeting other students who you don't know. You are going to practice engaging in these conversations here in this space with your cluster and other LAs on the team. Sometimes this may be vulnerable, this prepares you for that moment with first-year students.
- No matter how we're doing - whether things are going well or it's a tough time - holding on to our purpose can be grounding. We're starting by talking about your purpose so it can guide your engagement and investment in our time together!

# Discuss our training philosophy & practice

## Philosophy - what do we **value**?

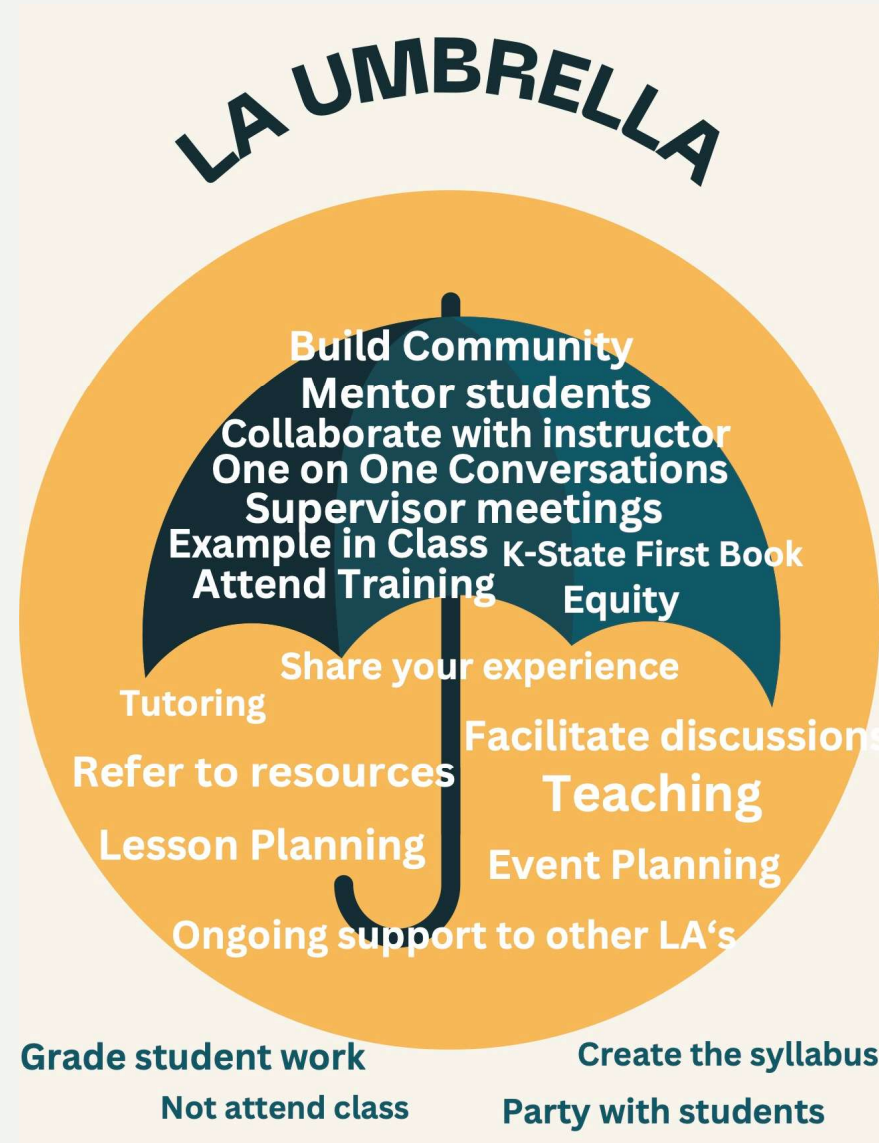
- We believe that training you to help students find belonging at K-State isn't taught through a one time "diversity" training. It's the core purpose of your role, so we integrate DEIB into everything we do in the LA program.
- We value providing intentional support while also challenging you to grow and thrive in the role.
- We value providing and receiving timely feedback.
- We value creating clear communication and structure for your experience.

## Practice - what will we **do**?

- In our class sessions, you can expect us to introduce an idea and provide context, help you deepen your understanding of the topic through active and engaged activities, and allow you reflect on what we have learned.
- If you need to miss class for an excused circumstance (illness, death in the family, and other reasons that are verified through [Student Support and Accountability](#)), we ask that you communicate promptly so that we can connect you to a make-up opportunity. We do not allow absences for non-extenuating circumstances, and you will be released from the role if you miss class under those conditions.
- We minimize outside class work to essential tasks that can't be completed in this space. This semester, you can expect only three hours of outside class assignments.

# Learn about the LA role umbrella

- We outline all expectations for the Learning Assistant role (such as all required class sessions, 1-on-1s, and events) in the [LA syllabus](#).
- The classroom part of Learning Assistant role is like an umbrella. Each classroom looks different, but we will give you the tools you need to make this decision and feel empowered to succeed. All LAs should be actively engaged in the class session by providing their perspectives and ideas for the students to hear; no LA should just be sitting in class not engaging in the discussion or activity.
- LAs may also teach one or two sessions of class or lead some activities if they are interested and discuss this with you. However, they should not be the primary facilitator, be teaching/leading more than three of the classes, designing the course syllabus, and they cannot grade any student work.
- These parameters are designed to ensure LAs remain firmly as a peer mentor, rather than either a fellow student or an instructor, in order to gain knowledge/education through this experience. We will train our Learning Assistants to understand this role definition, and would appreciate your support in reinforcing them.
- This semester, you will be meeting with your faculty member to set and document expectations for working together (on page 9 of the LA syllabus), which will include where you'd like your role to fall within this umbrella.
- As a former Learning Assistant for five different classes, Mia will share some examples of what her role has looked like in the classroom.



# Learn about the LA role umbrella

Teacher aid  
Classes preplanned  
Low confidence



Relationship focused  
Facilitated a lesson  
Helped organize events



Facilitated lessons  
Lesson planning



**Leadership in Sports '22**

**SPARK '23**

**Education in a Global World '21**

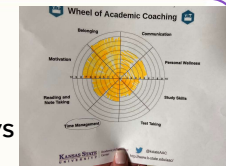
**Education in a Global World '22**

**Foundations of College Student Success '23**

Was another student  
Communication/organization  
One on ones due to low engagement



Unique FYS  
Academic coaching  
Only came on Fridays



# Review the LA syllabus

## **Instructions**

- As a cluster, have one person pull up a copy of the LA syllabus and have one person log into our Kahoot quiz.
- We will ask questions that walk you through all elements of the syllabus.



# Reflect on today's learning

## Instructions

- Navigate to Canvas, and open the Week 1 Reflection.
- Today's reflection tasks are:
  - Write a student friendly introduction that shares who you are, what a Learning Assistant is, and what they will gain from being in your K-State First class specifically. **This will serve as the script for your course preview video that we will ask you to film and upload to Canvas by the end of next week (March 29 at 5:00 pm).**
  - Use the template provided to email your faculty member to find time to meet and discuss expectations. Adapt this as you see fit. CC Brent <bweaver2@ksu.edu>, Hannah <hannahbennett@ksu.edu>, and Mia <miawells@ksu.edu> on this message.

See you all next week!