

## **LA Information Session (for recruitment following semester)**

### **1. Brief overview of LA program (5 – 7 minutes)**

*Welcome!!*

Purpose of tonight's session is to give you a taste of **what it means to be a Learning Assistant and to be part of the Learning Assistant program**, to help you decide if this is something you want to pursue.

- 20 minutes of short speeches by former and current LAs and faculty who work closely with the program.
- Then you'll get to talk with faculty and LAs from departments for which you may want to be an LA.

**Let's find out a little bit about your experiences and interest so far—why are you here tonight?**

Have had at least one class with LAs?      Have friends who are LAs?      Someone told you you'd be a great LA?

Are here because you think you might like to teach?

Are here because you need a job?

Want to work with faculty?

Want to help others learn?

Want to learn your content more deeply?

**The LA Program is an opportunity to:**      try out teaching      be part of a larger community  
realize how you can make a real difference in math & science education

**Very brief overview of the LA Program and what it means to be an LA:**

- **The LA Model:** Based on research that shows students need to be able to articulate and defend their ideas and that students learn when they work together on challenging conceptual materials.
- **What is an LA? Talented undergrads** who have recently taken a STEM course and **remember what it's like to learn the material**. Faculty hire LAs to **work with groups of students** on challenging conceptual materials. **Bridge** between students and faculty.
- **What do LAs do?** Help students to learn. Might mean asking more questions and giving fewer answers. Engaging students. What is required?
  - o **Primary role**, no matter what the course, is working with students in groups, using materials that are likely challenging and that are focused on main learning goals in the course.
  - o **Weekly meetings** with the course instructor (and TAs, etc.) to prepare for sessions.
  - o Taking an **education seminar (pedagogy course)** that helps to connect your teaching experiences to what we know about teaching and learning. Learn and try skills for helping students learn.
  - o **Paid for preparation and time in the classroom**
- **Started at University of Colorado Boulder; now with over 70 LA programs internationally .**

### **2. Experienced LA (and Noyce fellow, if applicable) perspective (2 -3 minutes)**

### **3. New LA perspectives (2 – 3 minutes)**

### **4. LA course instructor: A few words about the pedagogy course**

### **5. STEM faculty representative: Departmental perspective**

### **6. Application process and closing remarks**

Acceptance based both application and reference letters. Additional considerations include logistics of matching LA course schedules with courses seeking LAs.

### **7. Students visit with faculty from departments about their particular course opportunities (remaining 30 – 40 minutes)**