Program Highlights

- 56% of mentees agree and 44% strongly agree that their mentor was a valuable resource (answering questions, offering useful referrals, open dialogue).
- 78% of mentees agree or strongly agree that their participation in PEER was a major factor in having a successful first year.
- 92% of mentors agree or strongly agree that they had built an open, dialogue-orientated relationship with their mentees based on trust and confidentiality.
- A mentee says, “This PEER mentoring relationship will go a long way. PEER was definitely a worthwhile time investment.”
- A mentor says, “I didn’t realize that being a mentor to first-year students would leave such a big impact on me. I have learned so much about myself that I never would have known if not for being a mentor. Being a mentor has helped me reflect on my USC experience thus far.”

Areas of Improvement

- 33% of mentees only had monthly communication with their mentor.
- Data revealed that while mentors recognized pertinent APA community issues, this did not necessarily translate to mentees. For example, 92% of mentors recognize that help-seeking behaviors (i.e. talking to a counselor, talking to an academic advisor) are stigmatized in the APA Community, but only 44% of mentees recognize this.

New Directions

- The redesign of the PEER program (into the PEER Community) has received positive feedback from both mentors and mentees. We need to continue to assess and tailor the trainings, supervisions, and community workshops to address the needs of an ever-changing population.
- In order to maintain a strong, cohesive program, PEER will need to consider capping participation to 25 mentors, and 75 mentees.