Week 1

**Before classes begin: Convocation**

As students arrive on campus, move in, say goodbye to their families, and begin to live with strangers, they realize the anxiety and excitement of the independence and responsibility of the Baylor experience. You serve as the guide for your NSE group as they grapple individually and collectively with these realities throughout the fall.

Please join your students on Friday, August 21 at Academic Convocation in the Ferrell Center. The experiences of Convocation and Graduation are bookends to our students’ collegiate experiences, and you will want to participate in this academic welcome to our incoming students. This year’s faculty address will be given by Dr. Julie DeGraffenried, Assistant Professor of History, and we encourage NSE instructors to engage their students with the themes her address introduces. You can find the full text of her speech [here](#).

**Reach out to students:** If you haven’t already, introduce yourself through email by accessing [Class Roll](#).

**First week of classes:**

In your first week of classes, as you are going over your syllabus, please explain your role as NSE instructor and encourage students to come to you with questions as issues arise. Let them know that you are here to support their academic and personal success, and that you are happy to be a “home base” for them in the first semester as they adjust to college life.

You can also let them know about Late Night, which will be Friday, August 28 from 9pm-midnight in the Bill Daniel Student Center, Moody Library, Russell Gym, Bobo Spiritual Life Center, and the Student Life Center (SLC). Late Night lets students meet representatives from over 200 student organizations to learn how they can get connected at Baylor.

If students want more personalized assistance as they explore ways to get involved at Baylor, they can schedule an appointment with a Student Involvement Specialist or stop by the office on the 2nd floor of the SUB anytime between 10-4pm, Monday-Friday until October 16th. More information can be found at [http://baylor.edu/involve](http://baylor.edu/involve). Students can also explore student organizations and service opportunities at [http://baylor.edu/baylorconnect](http://baylor.edu/baylorconnect) throughout the entire semester.

**First Generation College Students:** Before the semester started, you should have received an email identifying those of your students who will be the first in their families to earn a college degree. These students may benefit from extra support from you, particularly at the beginning of the semester when they may feel overwhelmed. Because First in Line students tend to be less involved in pre-matriculation activities, you as their faculty are their primary point of contact at Baylor. If FGCS seem discouraged, consider reminding them that they belong here and have what it takes to succeed. Find out more at [http://www.baylor.edu/firstinline](http://www.baylor.edu/firstinline) or reach out to our AmeriCORPS VISTAs for additional support at firstinline@baylor.edu.

**Transfer Students:** Everyone wants to belong, and transfer students are no different. As a whole, transfer students are excited about Baylor, but once they arrive, they quickly question whether they belong. They don’t identify as freshman even though they are brand new, but they also don’t identify as upperclassmen even if they are sophomores and juniors. Because of this, it is important to remind your transfer students that they belong at Baylor. As an instructor, you can acknowledge their presence and experience as a transfer student and remind them that they belong at Baylor. Encourage them to get involved and do participate in anything freshmen do: Convocation, Mass Meeting, Running the Line, etc.

The link to the NSE website is [http://www.baylor.edu/nse](http://www.baylor.edu/nse).