Week 2: August 29, 2016

Establish Relationships with Students

We are thankful for your investment in our new students as they begin their college journey at Baylor. Did any challenges come up last week that we can assist with? Any success stories to share? Here are some important updates for this week:

Please encourage your students to visit with you during **office hours**, whether to address specific learning objectives or to develop a relationship. If time permits, meet with each student individually, or meet with them in groups of 3-5, to discuss things like homesickness, time management, campus involvement, and areas of academic strengths or weaknesses. Check out this article “**Weaning off of Email: Encouraging Students to Use Office Hours over Email to Contact Professors**” that details the advantages that students obtain as a result of attending office hours regularly and includes strategies for encouraging the use of office hours.

As promised during the NSE workshop—here is the updated list **Mindset List** for this year’s entering college class of 2020. **Check out the Mindset List to learn more about the class of 2020!**

A NEW element to our weekly NSE emails will be **conversation starters**. As an NSE instructor community we want to try to engage every student we encounter in a brief conversation about their academic work. We do this because we want students to know that their academic work is important and there are supports all around them that care about their success. This is a good week to try to help students look forward. Planning is not a strong suit for most of our students, particularly those in the first couple of years of college.

Here are some conversation starters for this week:

- What welcome week events were helpful in your transition to Baylor?
- Which Convocation challenge did you select? Be Purposeful, Be Consistent, Be Courageous
- What classes are you excited about? What are your goals for this semester?
- How are things going with your roommate?

**New 2BU Survey:** This fall all incoming students are encouraged to participate in a **New 2BU Survey**. A unique survey link will be sent to new students Baylor email accounts on the morning of **September 8**. NSE instructors will have the opportunity to view student reports after the complete the survey in the Student Success Collaborative platform. The assessment will connect students with campus resources that will allow them to proactively make meaningful changes to their behavior as they see fit. If you are interested in this, join us for the NSE Coffee and Conversation on either September 12 or 13 (see below).

**SSC Texting OPT-IN:** Many of you may know that all undergrads received a message about the **Student Success Collaborative** last week from Dr. Wes Null. We are urging students to “opt in” to the texting feature so that advisors can contact students by text. We also have developed an entire marketing campaign that aligns with this message. Please join us in encouraging students to opt in as you interact with students. The instructions for doing so can be found here: [http://www.baylor.edu/successcenter/index.php?id=934998](http://www.baylor.edu/successcenter/index.php?id=934998).

**Academic Resources:** Check out the [Paul L. Foster Success Center](http://www.baylor.edu/successcenter/index.php?id=934998) and encourage students to visit the Success Center so that if they need help in a class now or later, they will know where to find help. **Academic Support Programs** offers Supplemental Instruction, tutoring, a new Learning Lab and mentoring to any student who would thrive from an additional resource and perspective in an area of study.

**Students with Disabilities:** If students need yet have not applied for accommodations through **OALA**, it is critical that they do so now.

**Library Assistance and Study Spots:** [The Baylor Libraries](http://www.baylor.edu/successcenter/index.php?id=934998) offer research resources, comfortable learning spaces, and helpful assistance. The Central Libraries (Moody & Jones) house the general collection and serve as home to our Garden
Level Study Commons, a flexible technology-rich learning environment for individual or group study, and the Prichard Quiet Study Commons offers a 24-hour quiet study environment. The other libraries: the W. R. Poage Legislative Library, the Armstrong Browning Library, the Keston Center, and The Texas Collection, house specialized research collections and archives that serve a variety of disciplines. Moody Starbucks provides food as well as a comfortable space for both individual study and group meetings. Be sure to tell students to visit each of the Baylor Libraries early in their Baylor careers and learn what each has to offer to their academic success. Please distribute the Study Spots cards this week or next week if you haven’t done so already to give students ideas of spots on campus where they might like to study. Remind them that their first round of exams are coming up, and they should start studying now.

Writing Help: The Writing Center can help students with any writing assignment for any class. They have tutors ready to discuss a student’s work with them while they are brainstorming, outlining, drafting, or revising. They are available by appointment or walk-in, Monday – Thursday 9:00 a.m. – 7:00p.m. and Friday 9:00 a.m. – 5:00 p.m. They are located in Carroll Science G-06 and can be reached at (254) 710-4849.

Coffee & Conversation: these optional workshops will be focused on a specific NSE topic. Join us if you are able. Our first coffee & conversation will be focused on the New Student Transition Survey—join us to learn how to access your student’s survey results in the new Student Success Collaborative on-line tool. We will be offering this session twice—so you can select from the September 12th or 13th date. Please RSVP to michelle_cohenour@baylor.edu
- Sep 12, 2:30-3:30 pm Coffee & Conversation: New Student Transition Survey (Moody Garden, G42)
- Sep 13, 3:30-4:30 pm Coffee & Conversation: New Student Transition Survey (Moody Garden, G42)
- Oct 11, 3:30-4:30 pm Coffee & Conversation: Academic Success Resources (location-tbd)
- Nov 16, 3:30-4:30 pm Coffee & Conversation: Self-care Panel (Sid Rich 340)
- December 5, 3:30-4:30 pm NSE Recognition Reception

First Generation College Students: Encourage each student to build their own culture of success, based on their own unique strengths and goals. When given opportunity, help your students understand their college years as a time of formation and development, with much more extensive benefits than just a degree. Consider helping FGCS learn how to assess their own individual learning and to develop their own sets of behaviors, skills, attitudes, and strategies, all of which will be crucial to achieving positive academic performance throughout their Baylor careers.

Transfer Students: Transfer students come to Baylor for a variety of reasons, often with a complex personal story as to why and how they got here. As an instructor, giving your students a safe place to share their story and experiences with their peers and with you could go far in establishing significance in your classroom. Whether you have your class break into small groups, or you meet one on one with them, it is important for them to share their story. When you hear the reason why they are here, you can more fully appreciate the perspective they bring to your class, and more appropriately challenge and encourage them.