This week marks the eighth week that we’ve been blessed to serve our students – to help them thrive academically through the transition they’re making. Here are some updates for you and your students to know as they continue to find their place here at Baylor University.

**Conversation Starters:** The following are some conversations starters for engaging your students in dialogue.

- What’s your “big dream” in life right now (or after college)?
- What are you doing right now to make this “big dream” a reality?
  - Is there any way that I can help?
- Is there a professor who has really made a difference for you so far?

**Coffee & Conversation (an event just for you):** October 11, 3:30 – 4:30 p.m., Paul L. Foster Success Center 1st Floor Lobby. This event will be focused on Academic Success Resources for our students. Join us for a tour of the Paul L. Foster Success Center which includes the tutoring center where you can gather handouts for your NSE students to assist them in their academic journey! We’ll also be discussing the initial data generated from the New2BU Survey focused on students’ academic transition to Baylor. We’d love to see you there! Please RSVP to Michelle_Cohenour@baylor.edu if you plan to attend.

Nominations are being accepted for the Excellence in New Student Experience Award. This annual award recognizes excellence among the faculty and staff involved in the New Student Experience courses at Baylor University. Nominations can be made by submitting a letter of nomination and providing information and personal insight on why the nominee is a good candidate for the award. Nominations are due November 11, 2016 by sending in the relevant materials to Success_Center@baylor.edu. The winner of the Excellence in New Student Experience Award will receive a plaque, presented at the NSE Recognition reception on December 5th.

**Academic Intervention:** As of Week 6, academic warnings have been submitted to students who were identified as at-risk in their class. These notices serve to nudge students to get them back on track to academic success. If a student approaches you about an academic warning they’ve received, assure them that there are plenty of resources in place to help them succeed! Below are examples of some resources that we hope you’ll pass along to your students as needed:

- **Paul L. Foster Success Center** houses many academic resources such as:
  - Academic Support Programs – tutoring services, study skills, Learning Lab, and much more!
  - First in Line – programs specifically designed for first generation college students
  - Pre-Law – programs specifically designed to assist pre-law students
  - Transfer Student Success – academic and residential support services
  - University Advisement
  - VETS – Veteran Educational and Transition Services
  - Support students with disabilities who have not yet taken advantage of the Access and Learning Accommodation (OALA) office to do so!
Career and Professional Development will help students build a profile for the future by connecting their academic interests to their vocational passions.

**Advising and Registration:** Yes, it’s that time of year already! Students are required to meet with an academic advisor prior to registering for Spring, during which time they will choose classes for next semester, discuss their degree plan for graduation, learn how to register for courses, and talk about resources that will help them be successful in reaching personal and academic goals. Prior to their advising and registration appointment, students will receive an email asking them to look at their Major Academic Planner (MAP), consider minors or secondary majors, and think about study abroad opportunities, internships, summer coursework, and other plans such as graduate or professional schools. If students approach you for help in terms of advising or registration, please encourage them to look in their Bearweb account to find contact information for where they need to go for advising. If there are questions you can’t answer about advising or registration, feel free to contact Joyce_Miller@baylor.edu, Senior Director of University Advisement. You may also consider helping students navigate their advising and registration process by checking out the University Advisement webpage alongside them!

**New 2BU Survey:** We would like to thank you for your help in encouraging students to take the New2BU Survey! The survey on Tuesday (October 4) with a final response rate of just over 76%. We could not have made this happen without your support! We appreciate the time and commitment you make to serve our students each and every day.

**Data from the 2016 New 2BU Survey:**
- 65% of our students tend to agree or strongly agree that they feel comfortable approaching their professors and teaching assistants with questions and concerns.
- 87% of our students agree or strongly agree that they have control over their success at Baylor.
- The majority of students at this point in the semester are studying 3-5 hours outside of class each day. 23.5% studying 3 hours, 23.1% studying 4 hours, and 15.8% studying 5 hours.
- 78% of students report that their current level of homesickness is low.
- 57% of students report they are getting at least 7 hours of sleep most nights.
- 39% of students report that their current level of stress is low.
- 81% of students report that faculty and/or other Baylor staff have encouraged them to explore questions of meaning and purpose in their life.

NSE instructors have the opportunity to view student individual survey reports in the Student Success Collaborative platform: https://baylor.campus.eab.com log-in with your BearID/password.

**Traditions Experiences:** During the month of October, students are provided several opportunities to get connected at Baylor University through traditional events, such as Homecoming festivities, Pigskin Revue, and Treat Night. Many of your NSE students may not know what these events entail or that they even exist! Consider encouraging your students to attend some of these traditions experiences by sharing personal stories during times that you’ve attended these events that generate excitement and inspire students to join in on the fun!

**Mindfulness:** Not only is October a fun-filled month, but it is also a stressful time for students, faculty, and staff members as well. We offer a few examples to help you and your students practice mindfulness during this busy season of our lives:
- Consider pausing for a minute at the beginning of class for you and your students to reflect.
- Meditate over Scripture verses such as Matthew 11:28, Philippians 4:6-7, and Colossians 3:15, and consider sharing these with your students.
- Take a refreshing walk outside in between classes, and encourage your students to spend time outdoors.

Questions? Remember to check the NSE Website for ideas and inspiration. Thank you for all you are doing to help new students to engage deeply in the Baylor experience!