NSE Instructor Update--Week 1 (August 21, 2017)

Good morning,

Welcome to the new semester! The students in your NSE course are about to experience their first week of Baylor life—what a major life event this is for them! They have the opportunity to lay the foundation for academic success for the semester with the decisions they make over the next couple of weeks.

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.

*Here are some conversation starters for this week:*
  - What classes are you excited about?
  - Have you looked over your syllabus from each class? Are there any weeks that are going to be particularly busy? Lots of tests? projects? papers?
  - What are your goals for this semester?

**Class roster:** Want to check for any class roster changes, you can access your class roster at [Class Roll](https://www.baylor.edu/).

**Feedback needed:** while the August NSE Workshop is fresh on your mind, I’d love your feedback so we can continue to meet the needs of our NSE faculty. Please let me know your thoughts on the workshop, by taking this 3 question survey [here](https://www.baylor.edu/)

**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.

**Welcome Week:** The New Student Programs team has been working diligently on an interactive and engaging Welcome Week line up! Check out the full schedule of Welcome Week events at [https://www.baylor.edu/welcomeweek](https://www.baylor.edu/welcomeweek). You are welcome to participate in any of the Welcome Week events. There is a specific welcome week schedule for transfer students—you can view their full schedule [here](https://www.baylor.edu/).

**First Generation College Students:** This year approximately 19% of our new students are first generation (First in Line) 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 first generation college students 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).

**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. Encourage them to get involved and do participate in anything freshmen do: Mass Meeting, Running the Line, etc.

**Baylor On-Campus Internship Program** through the Office of Career and Professional Development (CPD) allows students to gain valuable real world experience through paid internships on campus. CPD partners with departments around the university that have identified a need for an intern on their staff, and put them in front of the students who have expressed interest in a related field. Students can apply online by August 28th.

Additional resources for your NSE course can be found at: [http://www.baylor.edu/nse](http://www.baylor.edu/nse)

Have a great week!

Michelle