NSE Instructor Update—Week 2
August 28, 2017

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 I can assist with? Any success stories to share?

Many of our Baylor students have family and/or friends in the hurricane affected areas. If time permits, you may want to do a brief check in this week to encourage students as they are processing the devastating floods. It is anticipated that a number of Baylor offices and organizations will be involved in responding to the severe weather associated with Hurricane Harvey. We have a new web site at Baylor http://www.baylor.edu/response/ This web site will be used to communicate information about those activities and responses.

Here are some important updates for this week:
Please encourage your students to visit with you during office hours. 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.

As promised during the NSE workshop—here is the updated list Mindset List for this year’s entering college class of 2021. Check out the Mindset List to learn more about the class of 2021!

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. Here are some conversation starters for this week:
• What welcome week events were helpful in your transition to Baylor?
• What classes are you excited about? What are your goals for this semester?
• How are things going with your roommate?

New2BU Survey: This fall all incoming students are encouraged to participate in the New2BU Survey. A unique survey link will be sent to new students Baylor email accounts on September 6. The survey only takes five minutes to complete. Once students complete the survey, they will be entered to win one of twenty-five Amazon gift cards valued at $25 each. This survey helps us to connect to students who need some additional support and resources.

Academic Resources: Encourage students to visit the Paul L. Foster 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 Learning Lab and mentoring to any student who would thrive from an additional resource and perspective in an area of study.

Student Planners: Would you like free academic planners for your NSE students? Contact Sally Firmin (Director, Academic Support Programs) and let her know how many planners you need for your students. The planners are a great Baylor resource for our new students! Sally_Firmin@baylor.edu

Students with Disabilities: If students need yet have not applied for accommodations through OALA, it is critical that they do so now.
You are invited to the Paul L. Foster Success Center Open House on Thursday, August 31st (2-5 pm, Sid Richardson Lobby). We are showing off our newly renovated space! Please join us for refreshments and a tour. While you are in the Success Center, please stop by Student Success Initiatives (east wing, lower level) to pick up Study Spots cards to give your NSE students ideas of spots on campus where they might like to study.

Seminars For Excellence in Teaching. Each fall the Academy for Teaching and Learning hosts a series of one-hour Seminars for Excellence in Teaching (SET). There are a variety of seminars lined up for fall, click here for a full view of the fall 2017 seminars.

Orientation + Baylor Line Camp Leaders (2018): New Student Programs has created a slide (attached) that can be shared with your NSE classes to help get the word out to new students about this great leadership opportunity! If you’d like to nominate students who you think would make great Orientation + Baylor Line Camp leaders for the 2018 summer please email their names to Kimberly_Black@baylor.edu

Career & Professional Development Opportunities: Lattes and Resumes (September 6, 2017, 11:00-2:00pm), Location: Moody and BSB Lobbies. Lattes and Resumes is a professional development event to assist student in designing their resumes intentionally based on their area of interest. This event will provide students an opportunity to talk with a Career Advisor for last minute edits on their resumes, interview strategies and more, before the career fairs.

BU Suit Up (September 10, 2017, 6:30-8:30pm), Location: JCPenney, Richland Mall. BU Suit Up is an opportunity to find professional business dress at a highly discounted price. Men’s and Women’s professional wear will be discounted up to 70% off and exclusive shopping just for Baylor students on September 10th from 6:30pm-8:30pm at the JCPenney at Richland Mall. Sephora will be available for hair and make-up tips and store consultants and CPD will be there to help students find the perfect outfit(s) to help jump start their career!

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. Writing Center Hours: 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.

First Generation College Students (FGCS): 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.