Developing and Sustaining a Successful Bridge Program

ERIN R. WESTON
BSP DIRECTOR, GEORGIA COLLEGE

Overview

- History & Context
- Program infrastructure
- Key campus partnerships
- Assessment
- Critiques

Georgia College

- Georgia's Public Liberal Arts University
- 6,500 students, 1,450 incoming first year students
- Admission profile has risen steadily since 1997

Bridge Scholars Program

- Conditional admission program
- Started in 2006 with 60 students
- Currently enrolls 134 students
- Year-long residential learning community
- Intensive summer experience

Organizational Structure

- Initially a function of Enrollment Management
- Now housed in the Center for Student Success
- Director reports to Associate Provost

Admission Process

- Students apply to Georgia College, not BSP
- Admissions nominates students for BSP
- Interested students must interview
- 450 nominated, 200 interview, 150 offered placement
**Who gets nominated… by the numbers**

- Average High School GPA 3.11
- Traditional Fall Admit 3.52
- Average ACT Score 21
- Traditional Fall Admit 25
- Average SAT Score 1046
- Traditional Fall Admit 1200

**Staff**

- Director of BSP
- Academic Year Graduate Assistant
- Summer Grad Intern
- Five Peer Mentors (former BSP Students)
- Five Community Assistants (employed by University Housing)

**Structure**

- Students are divided into five different cohorts
- Cohorts take their summer courses together
- Students live in 4-bedroom apartments
  - Each apartment houses 4 students from 4 different cohorts

**Summer Expectations**

- Enroll in 7 credit hours, must earn a C or better
- Attend weekly cohort meetings
- Attend four programs
- Follow BSP & GC policies

**2017 Summer Schedule**

- Move In/Orientation Saturday 6/17
- Teambuilding & Cohort Meetings Sunday 6/18
- Student Success Course Monday–Thursday 6/19-6/22
- Two Core Courses 6/23–7/18
- Break 7/1 – 7/4
- Final Exams 7/19 & 7/20
- Move Out 7/21

**GCSU 1010: Student Success**

- Does not replace First Year Seminar
- “On Course” textbook by S. Downing
- Teambuilding for cohort
- Peer mentor & CA attend
- Instructors include:
  - Faculty
  - Academic Advisors
  - Dean of Students
Core Classes

- Students pre-registered
- Classes held Monday-Friday
  - Morning class 9:00-12:00
  - Afternoon class 1:30-4:30
- Course examples
  - GCY Critical Thinking
  - Intro to Sociology
  - Theatrical Heritage
  - Human Geography

Programming

- 12 social programs, students must attend four (their choice)
- Five mandatory events
  - Teambuilding
  - Community service
  - Academic Advising session
  - Talent Show
  - Closing Banquet

Academic Support

- Tutoring support
  - During lunch
  - In evening at apartment
- Intentional faculty selection
  - Expected participation, slightly higher pay
  - Intrusive involvement

Campus Partnerships

- Primary
  - University Housing
  - Admissions
  - Financial Aid
- Secondary
  - Academic Advising
  - Dining Services
  - Parking & Transportation
Academic Year

- Expectations scaled back
  - Attend four events per semester
  - Monthly cohort meetings
  - Programming model shifts
  - ENGL 1101 together

Assessment

- Most recent 6-year graduation rate is 73%
- Confidence raised in all areas:
  - Test taking skills
  - Writing papers
  - Study skills
  - Handling roommate issues
  - Managing test anxiety
  - Dealing with conflict
  - Time management
  - Keeping up with class work
  - Locating helpful resources

Critiques

- Atypical demographics for a bridge program
- High cost
- Lack of academic year support

Questions?

Erin Weston
erin.weston@gcsu.edu
478.445.6293
@erinrweston

Thank You!

Please remember to submit your evaluation on Guidebook!

CI-S7 Developing and Sustaining a Successful Bridge Program
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