NATIONAL RESOURCE CENTER

FIRST-YEAR EXPERIENCE® AND STUDENTS IN TRANSITION

UNIVERSITY OF SOUTH CAROLINA

The Trusted Expert and Internationally Recognized Leader
for all Postsecondary Student Transitions

Conferences and Continuing Education | Research and Assessment | Publications

Primer for First-Time Attendees

19th National Conference on Students in Transition

Mary Stuart Hunter

Associate Vice President and Executive Director

Jennifer R. Keup

Director

John N. Gardner

Founder & Senior Fellow

NATIONAL RESOURCE CENTER

FIRST-YEAR EXPERIENCE® AND STUDENTS IN TRANSITION

UNIVERSITY OF SOUTH CAROLINA

Definitions of Primer

- Primer – any book of elementary principles
- Primer – a person or thing that primes; a first coat of paint, size, etc, given to any surface as a base, sealer, or the like

Primer Goals - to address:

- The **historical and cultural context** for the first-year experience/students in transition movement
- The **developmental mileposts** in the work of the National Resource Center

Goals continued

- **Current campus trends** of interest to higher educators
- The **future** of the first year of college and the **challenges** ahead for educators
- **Strategies** for making the most of the conference

Foundations and Beginnings

- Student activism and a riot at the University of South Carolina
- Spring 1970
- President Thomas F. Jones
- Social justice

- 1982 – National Conference on the Freshman Seminar / Freshman Orientation Course Concept
- 1983 – Annual Conference on the Freshman Year Experience begins
- 1986 – NRC is chartered, established the following year; first International Conference on the First-Year Experience held in the UK

- 1988 – First monograph published; First newsletter published; First national research study
- 1989 – *Journal* introduced
- 1990 – First national recognition process established (*Outstanding First-Year Advocates, co-sponsored by Cengage Learning*)
- 1994 – Website launched; First listserv created

- 1995 – Assisted Queensland University of Technology launch a conference series focusing on the first-year for educators in the Pacific Rim; 1st National Conference on Students in Transition held; Center expands its name to include focus on student transitions beyond the first year
- 1999 – John Gardner retires, Stuart Hunter becomes director

- 2003 – *E-source for College Transitions* electronic newsletter launched
- 2005 – Paul P. Fidler Research Grant established
- 2007 – Stuart Hunter promoted, national search identifies Jennifer Keup as 3rd director
- 2008 – First Institute for First-Year Seminar Leadership held, other institutes followed; NRC received ASHE special merit award

- 2010 – Online courses offered for the first time; national award established to recognize Excellence in Teaching First-Year Seminars (*in collaboration with McGraw Hill*); Center awarded a Spencer grant to study the impact of first-year seminars
- 2011-12 - Publication of *The First-Year Seminar* book series

Current Campus Trends of Interest

- Reaching out to student before they begin their studies
- Recognizing the importance of induction and transition periods

- Peer education and support
- Partnerships and collaborative efforts
- Ongoing support beyond the first year
- Focus on academic and life skills development

- Response to greater mental and emotional health needs of today's students
- Focus on learning versus teaching
- Declining fiscal support streams
- Institution-wide, more comprehensive approach

NATIONAL RESOURCE CENTER
FIRST-YEAR EXPERIENCE® AND STUDENTS IN TRANSITION
UNIVERSITY OF SOUTH CAROLINA

- Technology as a communication and educational tool
- External influences on FYE & SIT
- Parental / family involvement
- Assessment, assessment

NATIONAL RESOURCE CENTER
FIRST-YEAR EXPERIENCE® AND STUDENTS IN TRANSITION
UNIVERSITY OF SOUTH CAROLINA

The Future:
Meeting Needs, Setting Agendas

- Taking stock
- Assessment, evaluation, and research
- Moving beyond retention and access to degree completion
- Advocacy
- Global interest in the first year

- Changing modes for learning in our network
- Advancing research and scholarship on student transition and success
- Recognizing excellence

Unique Features of this Conference

- Audience
- Collegiality and community
- Session
  - format
  - duration
  - interaction

Making the Most of the Conference

- Note different session types
- Attend sessions on a wide variety of topics
- Make effort to network and meet new colleagues

- Excess handout table at the conference; website presentation center later
- Visit the exhibit booths

- Participate in evaluation opportunities
- Enjoy yourself and learn!

Welcome!!

PHILADELPHIA, PA
October 13-15, 2012
19th National Conference on
STUDENTS IN TRANSITION
Co-hosted by: Drexel University, Millersville University, and Saint Joseph's University
Register by SEPTEMBER 21ST to receive the conference discount!