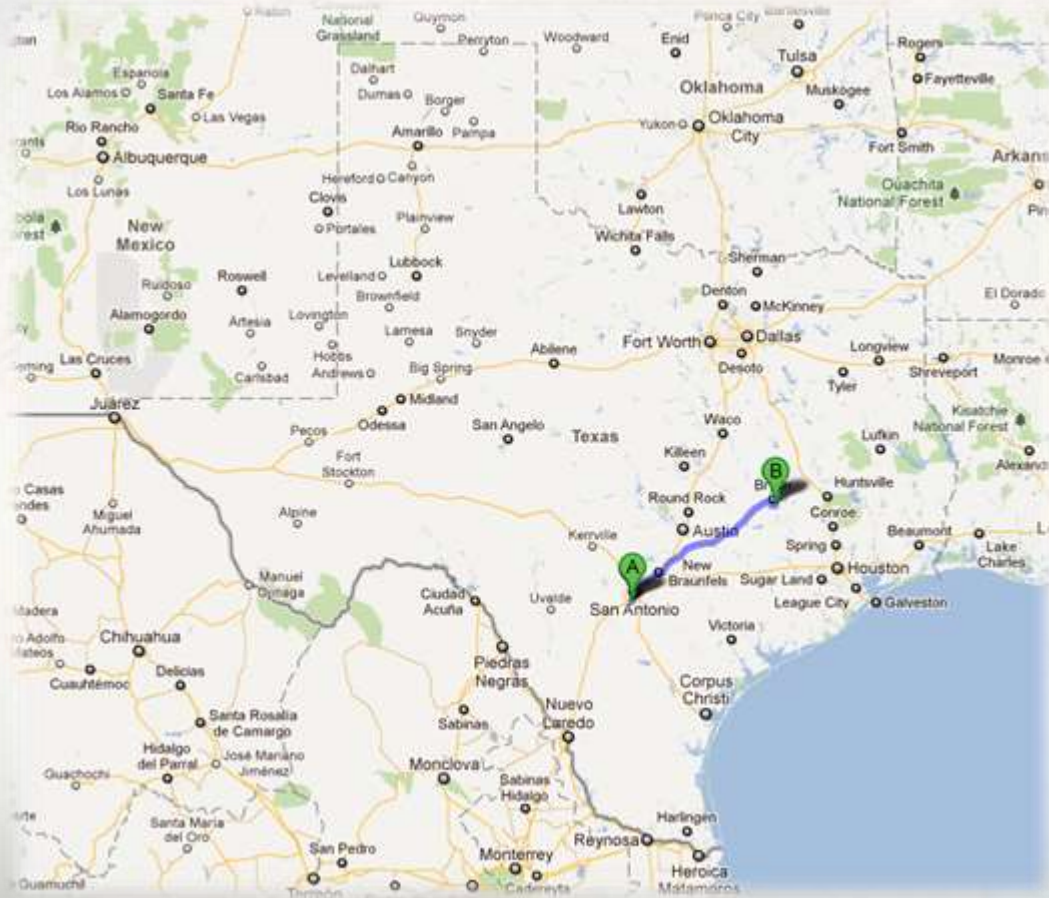


HOWDY!

Transfer Learning Community:
Supporting STEM Student Success

Timothy P. Scott, Ph.D.
Students in Transition Annual Conference
October 20, 2014

Palo Alto to Texas A&M:



180 miles/approx. 3hrs:
Distance from PAC to TAMU



Enrollment Profiles:

Palo Alto College Enrollment by Ethnicity Spring 2011

Race/Ethnicity	Enrollment	% Total
White	2542	27%
Hispanic	6307	67%
African American	282	3%
Asian	94	1%
International	0	0%
Other & Unknown	188	2%
Total	9,413	100%

Palo Alto College Student Characteristics Spring 2011

Student Characteristic	Number/Percentage
Total Enrollment	9,413
Average Age	25
Gender Distribution: Male/Female	38/62%
Ethnicity	67% Hispanic
Economically Disadvantaged	63%
First-Generation College Students	70%
Need-Based Financial Aid Recipient	68%
Limited English Proficient	10%
Full-Time/Part-Time Status	24/76%

Texas A&M University Enrollment by Ethnicity Fall 2010

Race/Ethnicity	Enrollment	% Total
White	32,954	67.1%
Hispanic	7020	14.3%
African American	1525	3.1%
Multi-Racial Afr. Am.	189	.4%
Asian	2149	4.4%
International	4284	8.7%
Other & Unknown	1008	2.1%
Total	49,129	100%

TEXAS A&M Student Characteristics Fall 2010

Student Characteristic	Number/Percentage
Total Enrollment	49,129
Average Age	18-21
Gender Distribution: Male/Female	53.6/46.4%
Ethnicity	67% White
First-Generation College Students	26%
Full-Time/Part-Time Status	75/24%



FIRST STEPS:

- Articulation Agreement – December 2006
- Campus Administration
 - Program Coordination – point of contact at PAC and TAMU
 - STEM Faculty
 - Advisors
 - Financial Aid Offices
- Alignment of Degree Plans – Coursework
 - Introductory Biology
 - Inorganic Chemistry
 - Organic Chemistry
 - Physics
 - Math



Recipients

- Up to \$10,000 in scholarship funding per year per student
 - 2 yr/4 yr – Associate's – Bachelor's Science
 - 2 yr/5 yr – Associate's – Bachelor's Engineering
- Participate in Learning Community at PAC and TAMU, including e-folios to assess core skills
- Limited work hours
- Research Opportunities



TAMU Science Scholars Orientation

Held in August – beginning of academic year

Attendees: *All Scholars – current and new to TAMU*

Welcome and Introductions – all

Student Panel – current scholars

What I wish I had known as I entered TAMU?

What was the biggest challenge I faced transitioning?

What was the most helpful thing I discovered to help with my transition and academic success?

Q&A

Life in Aggieland – Getting Around

Backpack of goodies Campus resources Facebook Child Care/School Options

Living arrangements Campus layout Bus Routes Maps of the community

Lunch/Network – find out something you didn't already know about someone

Academics

Courses in degree plans

Progress towards degree

Scholarship timetable (expires in two years)

Study Skills

Schedules – schedules – schedules!!

Identify possible study groups

Plans for weekend travel - impact on study time, caution when driving, etc.

Input from current scholars - study skills, groups and tips



Living Learning Community:

- On campus living – Residence Halls
- Off campus living
- Monthly Science Scholars Meetings
- Facebook
- Socials

Fall – Spring Socials for Scholars
Before Final Exams Social
Graduation Celebrations
Student Organizations
Rec Center
On campus living – Residence Halls



- Families, children, veterans, horses, counseling, disabilities, single parents



Monthly Meetings

All Scholars – Fall and Spring

- Food
- Semester Timelines - Deadlines
 - Q-drops
 - Mapping of Schedules
- Agenda – Topics – Resources
- Student Counseling Services
- Career Center
- Research Opportunities
- LSAMP
- Graduate School
- Professional School



Research Experiences

- Depth of knowledge through experience
- Different from books – real world applications
- Exposure to graduate education
- Poster Competitions
- Additional support through grant opportunities - LSAMP, awards, fellowships



Lessons Learned

- Recruitment challenging
- Campus Admission
- Rewards for CC partner
- Alignment of plans and obtaining Associate's Degree
- Learning Community at CC
- No established program for all other transfers on campus
- Excess Credit Hours
- Data Collection



Program to date –

- 24 students selected as Science Scholars
- 21 Science Scholars transferred to Texas A&M University (87%)
- 15 students graduated (71%) of the transfers – *to date*
- 3 students currently enrolled completing bachelor degrees
- 14 students have participated in research (66%)



Science Scholars	Female	Male	Hispanic
24	15	9	15 (63%)



Transfer Learning Community – Year 1

- Approximately 125 students transfer into the College of Science each year
- Transfer students are academically talented and interested in STEM
- Opportunity to increase STEM pipeline
- Based on College's NSF-funded S-STEM program, essential components incorporated into required TLC as key for successful transfer, retention, and completion of bachelor's degrees in mathematics and science.

TLC Goal

Successful Transfer, Retention, and Completion of Bachelor's Degrees in Mathematics and Science



Retention of Transfer Students

- 3.6 Transfer GPA – retained and graduated in Science on time
- 3.5 Transfer GPA – retained in Science
- 3.3 Transfer GPA – retained to TAMU, but not in Science
- 3.2 and below Transfer GPA – not retained to TAMU



Student Learning Outcomes

- Critical Thinking
- Prepare to Engage in Lifelong Learning
- Work Collaboratively

High Impact Practices

- First-Year Seminar
- Elements of Learning Community



TLC Year 1 Schedule

August/January Orientation	Boot camp, Moneywise, Student Counseling Service, Career Center, student panel, Student Affairs, meeting with advisors
September Meeting	Student Counseling Service discusses results of Strong Interest Inventory, degree evaluations provided
October Meeting	Midterm grades discussed, how to q-drop/withdrawal, pre-registration information, create sample schedules, discuss final examinations
February Meeting	Career Center-What can I do with my major?, degree evaluations, housing plans for fall 2013
March Meeting	Research opportunities, LSAMP, mid-term grades, q-drop/withdrawal, pre-registration, finals preparation



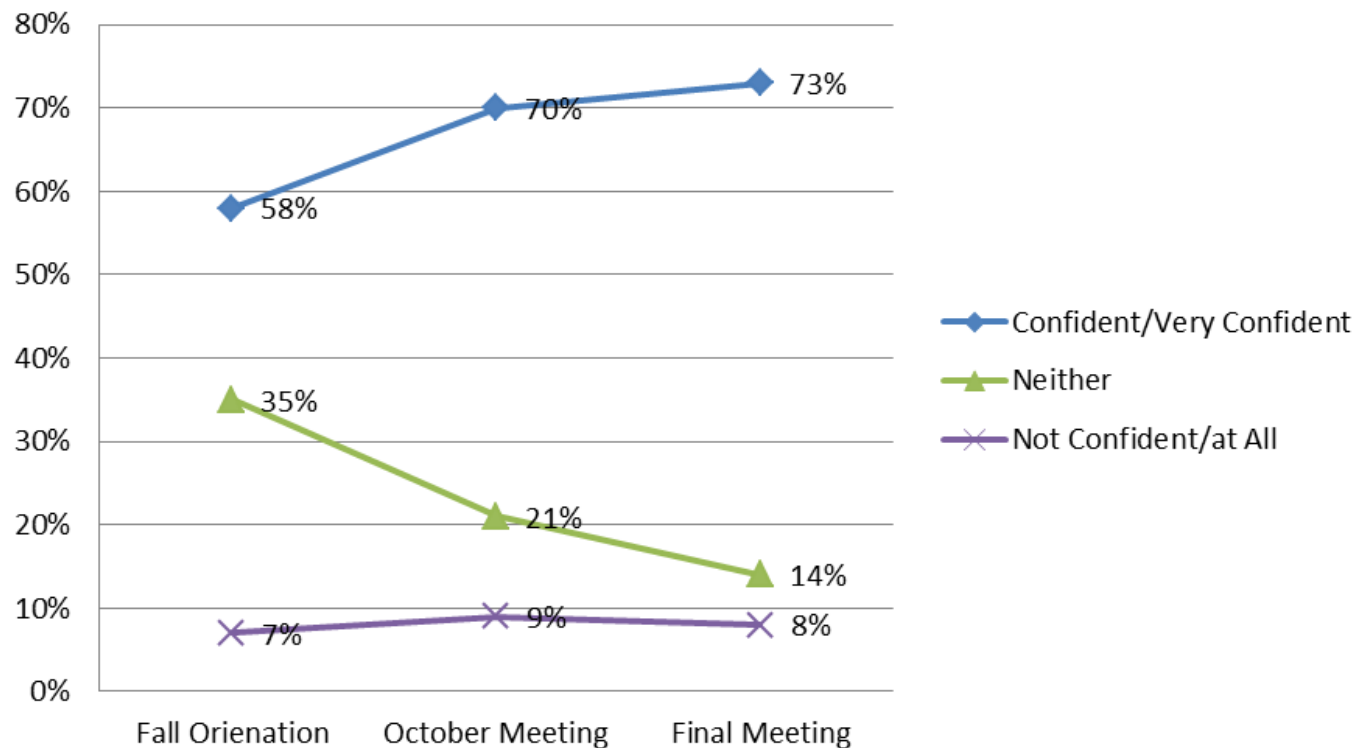
Fall 2012 Orientation Agenda

- 9:00 am **Welcome and Introductions**
- 9:30 am **Success Boot Camp** Presentation
- 10:30 am **Money Wise**
- 11:00 am Services offered by **Student Counseling Services**
Interest Inventory Survey
- 11:30 am **Student Panel** – *current*
CLSC S-STEM Scholars
- 12:00 pm Lunch/Network
- 1:00 pm **Student Affairs**
 Student organizations
 Gig 'Em Week/Howdy Week
 Career Center
 Bus Routes
- 2:00 pm Breakout Session – *CLSC*
Departmental Advisors



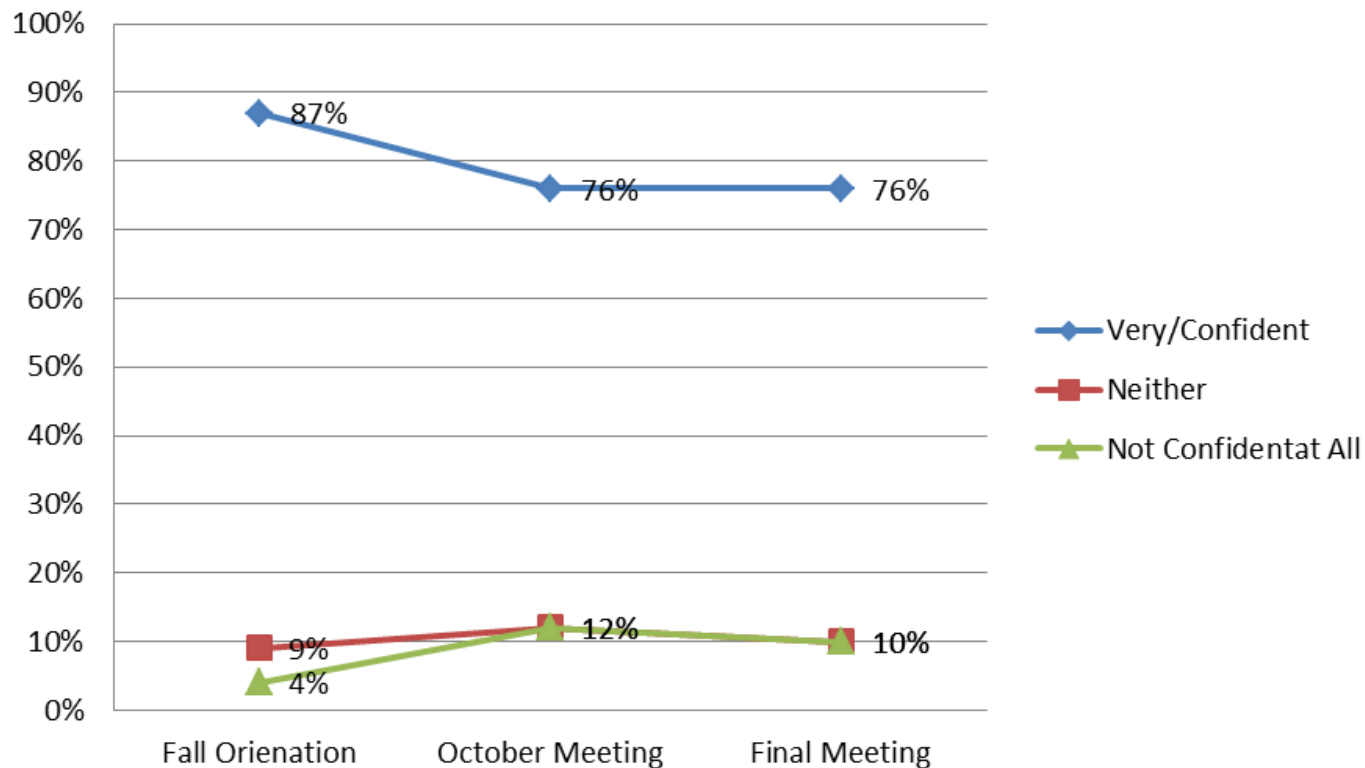
Critical Thinking - Career Awareness

	I am aware of career options available for math and science majors.		
	Orientation	October Meeting	Final Meeting
Confident/Very Confident	58%	70%	73%
Neither	35%	21%	14%
Not Confident/Not Confident at All	7%	9%	8%



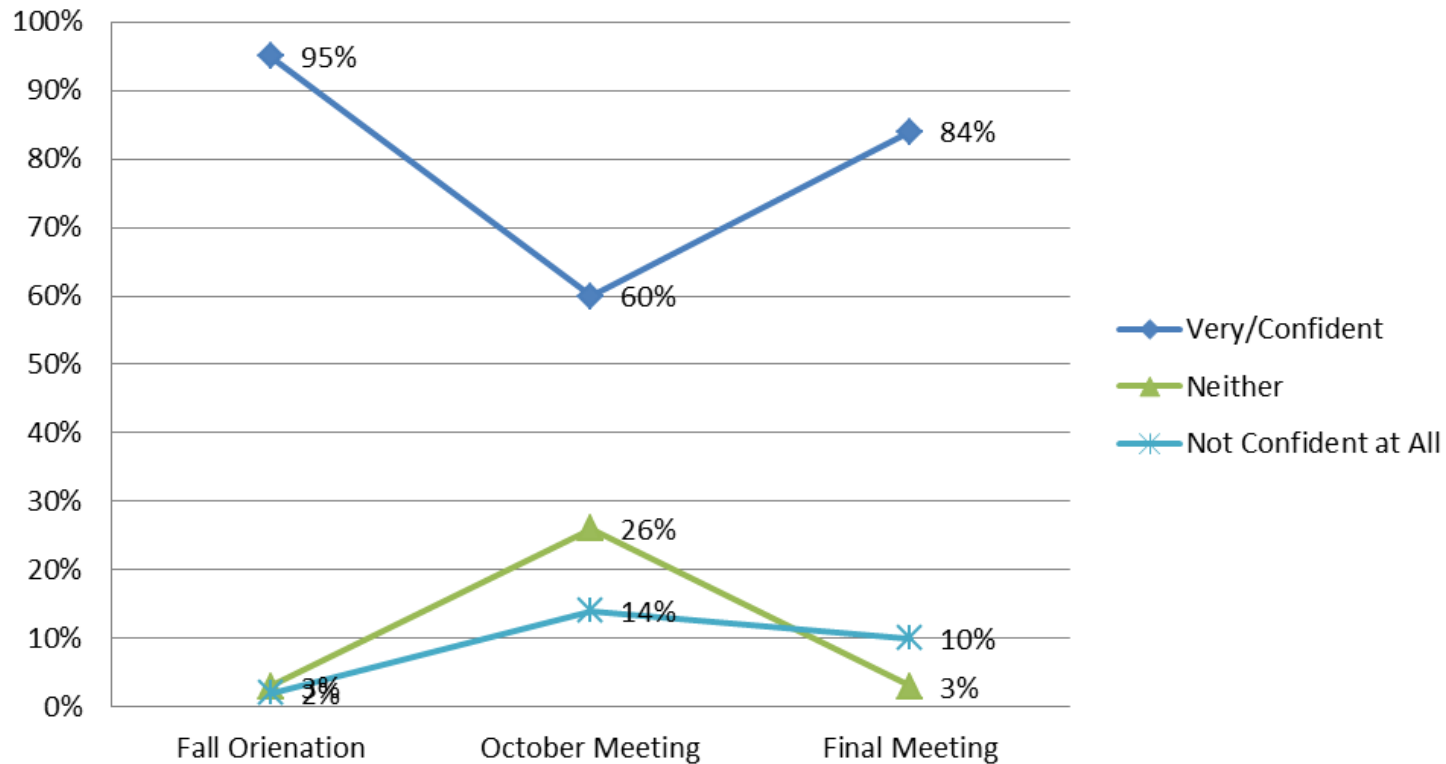
Critical Thinking - Career Awareness

	I can identify at least one possible career strongly suited to my interests, skills, and lifestyle values.		
	Orientation	October Meeting	Final Meeting
Confident/Very Confident	87%	76%	76%
Neither	9%	12%	10%
Not Confident/Not Confident at All	4%	12%	10%



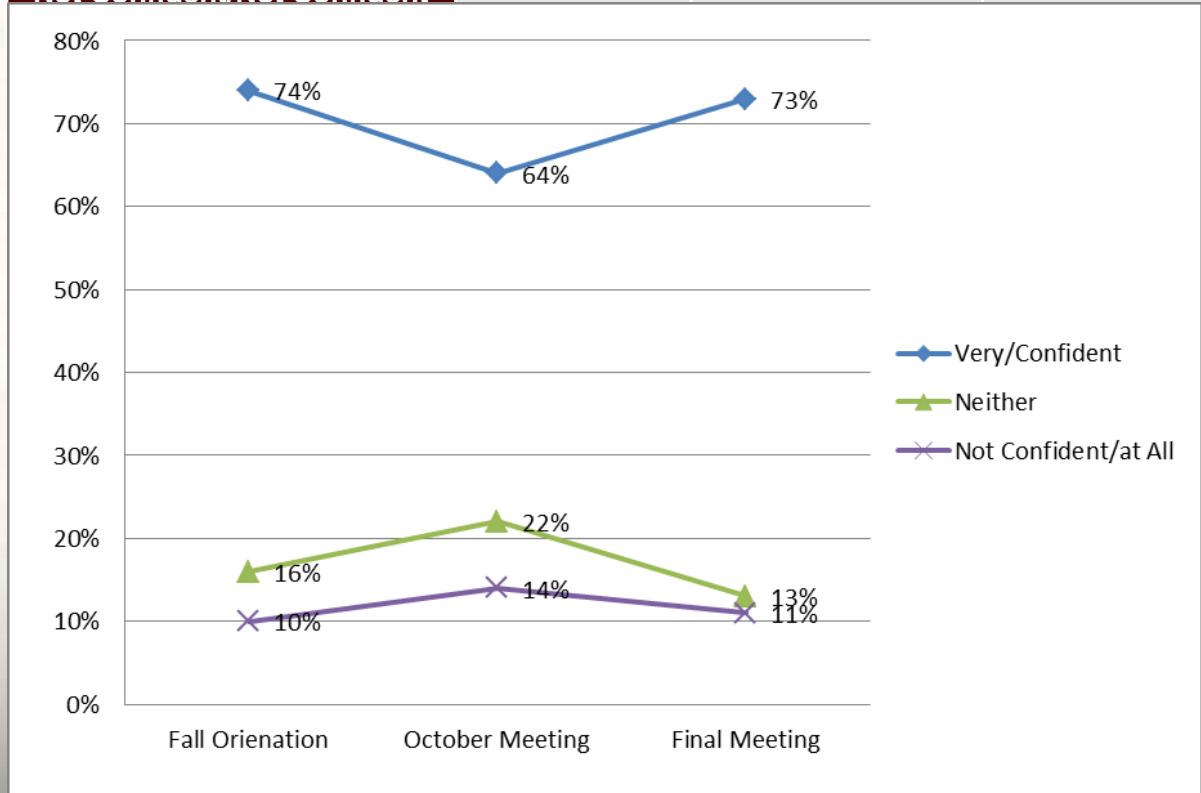
Personal Responsibility – Study Skills

	I have a realistic understanding of the time and effort commitments I must make to be successful at TAMU		
	Orientation	October Meeting	Final Meeting
Confident/Very Confident	95%	60%	84%
Neither	3%	26%	3%
Not Confident/Not Confident at All	2%	14%	10%



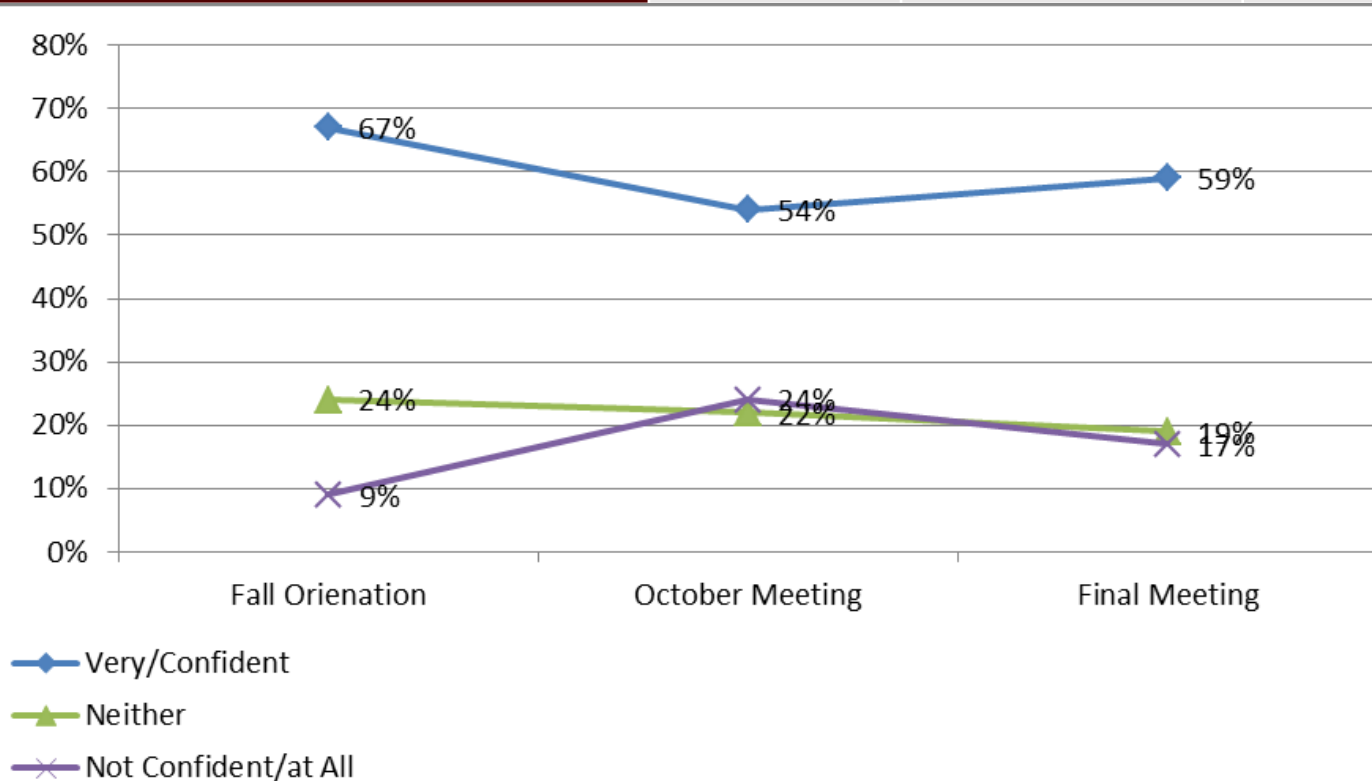
Personal Responsibility – Campus Resources

	I am aware of the different campus resources available to me to help achieve my academic and career goals.		
	Orientation	October Meeting	Final Meeting
Confident/Very Confident	74%	64%	73%
Neither	16%	22%	13%
Not Confident/Not Confident			



Collaborative Learning

	Participating in the Learning Community has contributed to my retention to Science at TAMU.		
	Orientation	October Meeting	Final Meeting
Confident/Very Confident	67%	54%	59%
Neither	24%	22%	19%
Not Confident/Not Confident at All	9%	24%	17%



TLC Impacts

	N		YR 1 SC		YR 1 NSC		Total
			Ret.	GPA	Ret.	GPA	Ret.
2011/12	69	Baseline	80%	2.920	7%	2.869	87%
2012/13	81	YR 1 TLC	68%	2.898	20%	2.830	88%



TLC Year 2 Semester Schedule

August Orientation <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Academic Boot Camp	Entering students with a transfer GPA less than 3.5 must attend with TLC mentors.
September Meeting <ul style="list-style-type: none">• 3 Week Check-Up• <u>Research</u>	Entering students with a transfer GPA less than 3.5 must attend with TLC mentors.
October Meeting <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Mid-Term Grades• Q-Drop & Withdrawal	Transfer students posting midterm grades less than a B in any course must attend with TLC mentors.
November Meeting <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Pre-Registration• Preparing for Final Exams• <u>Focus Groups</u>	Transfer students posting midterm grades less than a B in any course must attend with TLC mentors.



TLC Year 2 Additions

Peer Mentoring:

- Provide Stipends/Scholarships for Peer Mentors for TLC
- Peer Mentors are Successful Previous TLC Participants
- Mentors Posted a 3.5 or Better GPA in First Year at TAMU
- Assigned to No More Than 10 Mentees

Supplemental Instruction:

- Additional Supplemental Instruction Sessions Have Been Added for Courses Known to be Problematic for First Semester Transfer Students



Changes in Academic Boot Camp

- 6-8 hour session → 3 -1 hour segments
- Peer Mentors – 20 minutes
- Theory – 20 minutes
- Group Work – 20 minutes



<http://www.science.tamu.edu/files/ppt/SuccessBootCamp.ppt>

Fall 2013 Orientation Agenda

1:00 pm – 1:15 pm **Welcome, Introduction and Overview of the Day**

1:15 pm – 2:15 pm **Transitioning, Goal Setting, Time Management**

1:15 pm – 1:35 pm Student Panel

1:35 pm – 1:55 pm Dr. Scott

1:55 pm – 2:15 pm Group Work

2:15 pm – 3:15 pm **Study Strategies**
(Structuring Time, Going to Class, Active Engagement, Campus Resources)

2:15 pm – 2:35 pm Student Panel

2:35 pm – 2:55 pm Dr. Scott

2:55 pm – 3:15 pm Group Work – Attempt to Locate Possible Study Partners/Groups

3:15 pm – 3:55 pm **Syllabi and Exam Preparation**

3:15 pm – 3:35 pm Student Panel

3:35 pm – 3:55 pm Dr. Scott

3:55 pm **Closing – Dr. Scott**



TLC Impacts

	N		YR 1 SC		YR 1 NSC		Total	YR 2 SC		YR 2 NSC		Total
			Ret.	GPA	Ret.	GPA	Ret.	Ret.	GPA	Ret.	GPA	Ret.
2011/12	69	Baseline	80%	2.920	7%	2.869	87%	52%	2.977	28%	2.886	80%
2012/13	81	YR 1 TLC	68%	2.898	20%	2.830	88%	56%	3.100	27%	2.911	83%
2013/14	103	YR 2 TLC	77%	2.918	12%	3.217	89%					



Year 2 - Spring 2014 Cohort

- Much smaller cohort, n=34
- Presentation in a modular classroom
- Eliminated exemptions
- Peer mentors exhibiting student leadership skills



Assessments

- Surveys given to participants at orientation and final meeting
- Surveys assess learning outcomes
- Tracking of students
- Focus Groups



MeetWithAdvisors
TimeManagement
Don'tProcrastinate
S'l's
Sleep
StudyGroups
Socialize
SeekHelp
TBAClasses
Homework
BusRoutes

LaterRegistrations



Next Steps

- Publish results
- Tracking
- Continuous Improvements through assessments and student data
- Institutionalization
- Disaggregate data (2 yr vs. 4 yr, ethnicity, first generation, etc.)
- Established productive partnerships with 2 year feeder programs
- Last cohort of NSF funded students graduating 2015
- First cohort of TLC students graduate May 2014



Questions?

Dr. Tim Scott
Associate Dean
Undergraduate Programs
College of Science
tim@science.tamu.edu