Transfer Connections: Welcoming New Transfer Students

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Quick Overview

• ASU Demographics
• History of Project
• What is Transfer Connections?
• Continuous Improvement
• Challenges
• Additional Thoughts
• Ideas
ASU Demographics

https://webapp6.asu.edu/corda/dashboards/ABOR_public/main.dashxml#cordaDash=1024 pulled 3/16/16
ASU Demographics continued

• 68% at Arizona’s three universities graduate in 4 years
• 76% of ASU’s transfer students are from Arizona
• 68% of ASU’s transfer students come from the Maricopa Community College system
• Age range from 18-74
• Attend all 4 group campuses
History of Project

• Action Research
• Defining the problem
• Participatory Action Research
• Fall 2014 & beyond
What is Transfer Connections?

• Supplement to New Student Orientation during Fall Welcome Week
• Half-day of workshops (Academic Integration)
  o My ASU & Blackboard
  o Study Abroad
  o Barrett, The Honors College
  o Academic Resources
• Peer Networking (Social Integration)
  o Team building activity
  o Networking lunch
  o Peer student panel
• Most workshops facilitated by Transfer Ambassadors
What makes it special?

• 135 transfer students participated in Transfer Connections on the Tempe campus in August of 2015.
• 1 of those students ended up dropping their fall courses
• 10 did not return for spring 2016 (this counts the 1 who did not stay for the fall). This means a retention rate of 92.6% from fall to spring.
• 61 students used UASP services some time during the year (45.2%).
• Average fall GPA 3.24
What makes it special?

“I think support can be just from all the people I've met, too. I've met a couple people at transfer connections, not necessarily in my program but just like we're both in the same place. We both don't know what we're doing. It's been nice to be like, ‘Okay. I know someone else is in my place.’ Maybe we're not in the same program but at least we can talk about it and be like, ‘Oh, my gosh. This is crazy.’ I consider that support, too. We're in the same spot. We can go through with each other. “(Kaitlyn, September 22, 2015)
What makes it special?

“Just having an event, that was an icebreaker for the first week of school, and somewhere to go...Even just in a room, knowing that there are other transfer students in there, that many, makes you feel like it wasn’t just you, and you weren’t alone. “(Jamie, September 21, 2015)

“It helped a lot to be able to talk to some of the transfer students from the year before because they are able to tell us a little bit more about their difficulties” (Ruby, September 29, 2015)
What makes it special?

“They showed you how to use BlackBoard because at our community college we didn't use BlackBoard. We used this thing called Canvas, and so they're [my friends] like: ‘BlackBoard's different’, and then I was like: ‘Yeah, they showed us at this transfer thing. You could've come’.”

(Joseph, September 29, 2015)
Challenges

• Where does a program like this fit at your institution?
  ○ Purpose: Academic vs Social
• Building campus partners
• Funding
• Fall vs Spring
• Timing
• Meeting the needs
Additional Thoughts

• Unique academic policies
• Bridging with community colleges
• Need for ongoing programming
  ○ Mattering Survey & Focus Group Data
• Courses
• The little things
References


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