

Connections Mentoring Program

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Program pairs first-year Latino students with upper class Latino students in a mentoring relationship. The program's focus is to

1. Facilitate a better relationship between Latino classes by pairing incoming students with upper-class student mentors.
2. To aid in the transitional experience of first-year Latino students by pairing them with upper class Latino students.

* Mentee and Mentor pairings

* On going program support e.g., opportunities for those involved to get together socially or academically. E.g., Midterms upper class panel study break, pizza night with game of how well you know your mentee or mentor, etc. Follow-up with program participants to see how program experience is going.

Program cost: Minimal (cost associated with sponsoring food, or mentor/mentee activities e.g., movie tickets won at "how well you know your mentee or mentor" game.

Assessment procedures used to evaluate the program:

*Mentees are evaluated at end of program to see how experience went.

*Mentors are evaluated asked for feedback for making program better.

Student Training Opportunity to Maximize Potential Retreat (S.T.O.M.P.)

Kristen Piwowarski
University of South Carolina
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Columbia, SC 29208
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The S.T.O.M.P. retreat is designed for first year student living in the residence halls to explore their leadership potential in a small group setting. S.T.O.M.P. targets first year students, who are not actively involved on campus, however they have displayed some interest in getting more involved. The focus of the retreat is defining leadership and then helping students put that definition into action. Overall, the theme of the weekend is that all students have the ability to be a leader. They all have the potential; the key is to unlock that potential. That is done over the course of the weekend through reflection, group projects, small group interaction and large group activities. These interactions and activities focus on topics such as communication, overcoming your fears and diversity. This retreat has been a great success and starting place for students to get more involved within University Housing, whether it be as a resident advisor or hall government representative, these students have unlocked their potential.

Freshman Interest Group (FIG) Program (2000-2001)

Kris Hoffenberger, Dr. Bobbie Stokes
University of Wisconsin-Stevens Point
Lower Level Delzell Hall
Stevens Point, WI 54481-3897
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The FIG Program is a two semester living-learning experience for new freshman. Students live in the same building and take 2-4 of the same classes. There are six FIG groups of about 20 students, and each group has a different emphasis. The current FIG groups are Women in Science, Undeclared Students, Natural Resources, Communicative Disorders, and two Humanities groups. Each FIG is housed in a different residence hall, and is administered by a different team composed of Residential Living Staff, and faculty members, who coordinate the program.

Big West Success (2000-2001)

Kathy Moore
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Big West Success is a residentially based program with the main objectives of connecting first year students to the campus and to aid in the transition from high school to college by equipping students with the knowledge, skills and resources familiarity to help them succeed in a collegiate environment. The speed in which this program was implemented and the degree of its effectiveness can be directed to the simple reason that this has been a collaborative and collective effort of over one hundred faculty, staff and students across the university all of whom are committed to the retention and academic success of freshmen students.