

Discussion points as you plan your Orientation program:

What do you want to accomplish through your Orientation program? How and where do you want parents/families involved?

### **Institutional view –**

Where is Orientation on your list of priorities?

- How will an Orientation program fit within your mission?
- What is the recent history/expectation of Orientation at your college?
- Do you have a new directive or are you looking for a change?

What is the main purpose or goal for a new orientation program?

- Does the program seek to welcome new students?
- Is a goal to provide a foundation for retention?
- Is the goal to register as many students as possible in an efficient way?
- Are students going to be offered a complete introduction to the academic community, expectations, placement information, credit vs. non-credit coursework, tuition and fees, etc.

What resources do you have for Orientation – financial, staffing, and facilities?

- What types of services do you want to make sure you offer?
- What funds are available for Orientation?
- What do you want students to walk away with following Orientation? Packets, ID badge, parking pass, schedule, books, made student connections, advisor contact information and introduction, etc.

### **Consult the experts –**

What do students and families want and need from Orientation?

- What specific academic, financial, and transitional support issues are of greatest concern for students? Ask current students. For parents? What parents can you tap into to ask from recent programs?
- How do the latest trends and issues impact your planning?
- What are families concerned about – what have their questions been?
- How do you see families being involved and supportive of your more traditional students?

### **Build the program –**

How will the Orientation be scheduled?

- How many campuses?
- How large/small/individual will they be?
- Will they be the same on all campuses?

What topic areas are you going to cover?

- Who will students meet?
- How will information be presented?
- What will students learn about campus structure, expectations, deadlines, campus services, graduation planning, realistic timeline and costs, and other opportunities as a member of this campus?
- When will students register and take care of business/financial matters?
- Will you have outside speakers? Motivational/transitional speakers or activities?

What formats will be used”

- Will there be an option for on-line orientation?
- Are all orientations the same or will there be a shorter/longer option?

**What can other departments or local programs help you with?**

- Parent program around supporting your student, transitional issues, and how the first year adjustment to college can go.
- Utilize a “dialogue” format to share concerns from past parents and ways they’ve supported their student during the first semester and year.
- FERPA, financial support, and growing independence.

Listed are some ideas and places to look at what some colleges are doing for Orientation. You will find on line video introductions, inviting students to attend and some are e-orientation opportunities.

<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Dymw-4Y5LI>

[http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=AF8\\_voHfPik](http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=AF8_voHfPik)

<https://www.tcc.fl.edu/Future/Orientation/Pages/default.aspx>

<https://www.tcc.edu/firstyearsuccess/orientation.php>