Hi All!

Well, with March being here, I’m sure a lot of you are already gearing up for Summer and Fall Advising, summer transitional programming, NACADA Regional Conferences, and a fresh batch of Orientations with new students right around the corner! With each Spring, brings a new set of unique obstacles for our students, and how we reach to serve their needs. Typically, it begins with a set of techniques in how we help our current students finish their year strong, and plan for what’s coming, while simultaneously juggling how we welcome in our new group of students in the Summer or Fall. Offering restored ideas reflecting from the previous year that we would like to implement this new year, and pumping ourselves full of caffeine to tackle it!

With that being said, this issue, explores the idea that what we do to serve our students, depends greatly on who we are serving. This issue looks to bring our Community of Advisors together to share some of our best practices that are being used to serve our students, across various institutions, those of differing sizes, locations, and diverse student populations.

The statistics and descriptions from last month’s poll for the High School to College Community Newsletter, Volume 1, Issue 1, display and showcase the various practices used by institutions from our members in the High School to College Advising Community.

**Practices utilized at institutions for High School to College avenues for success:**

- 60% use Dual Enrollment/Concurrent Enrollment
- 20% use Summer Transitional Programs
- 100% use First Year Experience Programs
- 80% use First Year Studies courses
- 80% use Peer Mentors/Peer Advisors
- 100% use Academic Advisor Access/Support

What is interesting about these statistics is, that although each institution may serve different populations of students, have different ranges of sizes of student populations they serve, have different professional job titles, are located in a variety of locations, and have different focus areas that fall under the umbrella of High School to College Advising, they have similar practices they use to promote student success. What is also vital to note, is that although the majority of institutions may use the same avenues for success, the way in which they use these practices may differ in how they organize the specifics of each avenue to tailor it to their specific student’s needs.
The “ah-ha” moment here? That there is not a “one-size-fits-all” approach to student success. But, there are avenues that remain the same, with tailored approaches in practice.

A compiled resource list from our High School to College Advising Community Members:

- **Lorilyn Beck**, a First Year Experience Coordinator from Northwest College, says that an important avenue is “visiting High Schools on Parent and Senior Nights.”

- **Melissa Recknor**, an Early College Liaison and Success Advisor at Surry Community College, speaks to the important areas of emphasis that are utilized at her institution for best practice. “For my students, the best thing we have implemented is the Aviso Engage software for early alerts and intervention. It helps us advisors keep track of the students but the information can also be easily relayed to high school partners. I also began intrusive advising- making the students come to see me at least once/semester to talk about their plans, grades, etc. Our Early College students take ACA-118 their very first semester on campus and it really seems to help set the tone for college.”

- **Becky Hunke**, an Assistant Academic Dean at Doane University, notes the importance of “FYE courses, plus a 5-week lab in the evenings” to aide in student success practices at her institution.

- **Ariel Davis**, an Academic Advisor at Bryant and Stratton College, mentions the use of a “New Student Roundtable to assist them with how to navigate their first year of college.”

With the multitude of best practices available, ensuring that your practices are in line with your goals, student population, and institutional model is an essential foundational step towards making a decision on what practices you should build into your model, or should be using.

Thanks, and have a wonderful Spring Semester! Keep Sharing!

-Rashonne Founts  
*High School to College Steering Committee Member*

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**Have a question for the High School to College Advising Community Leadership?**

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