

Develop and implement "Be Bulldog Bold," a two-day interactive orientation where incoming students are introduced to the ideas of Discovery, Diversity, and Distinction, and how each of these components interweave to create a sense of self-pride, appreciation of others, and the mindset to start them on their way to becoming inclusive leaders.

CURRENT CHALLENGE:

One of the fundamental goals of this Bold Idea is to engage new incoming students in activities and dialogue that celebrate their identities, embrace the similarities and differences they share with others, build coalitions, and introduce the multitude of resources and opportunities available to them on campus that meet the ever-changing needs of students, and support them in their academic success. A student's background and identity affects how they respond to the academic environment. For that reason, approaches to improve student retention and success should begin as soon as the new students arrive on campus. By adopting a holistic approach to the new student orientation process, and by providing opportunities for interaction and engagement that all can participate in, students may, from day one, begin to develop a sense of belonging to the university – a sense of belonging that is critical to both retention and success.

PROPOSED SOLUTION:

Be Bulldog Bold is a two-day interactive orientation where incoming students are introduced to the ideas of Discovery, Diversity, and Distinction, and how each of these components interweave to create a sense of self-pride, appreciation of others, and the mindset to start them on their way to becoming inclusive leaders. Be Bulldog Bold will complement the current DOG DAYS orientation by encompassing not only the academic aspect of campus life, but also other aspects of students as individuals. Day one consists of a full-day interactive diversity workshop during which students will get to know themselves and others. This proactive approach sets the base for coalition building amongst the students and raises awareness of how they can support each other throughout their academic career. NCBI's award-winning Welcoming Diversity/Prejudice Reduction Workshop is an experiential program that has been presented to thousands of schools, colleges, and universities, corporations, government agencies, trade union, religious institutions, community organizations, and other groups throughout the world. The workshop will be facilitated by Fresno State NCBI Team members. (See additional info section)

BENEFITS TO FRESNO STATE:

Development of the Whole Student – DISCOVERY. DIVERSITY. DISTINCTION. As leaders in institutions of higher education, we must ensure that knowledge acquisition, together with personal growth and development, continue to be a central part of students' learning experience. Through Be Bulldog Bold students will begin their college journey knowing more about themselves and others, what resources are available, and how to make the Fresno State college experience work for them. The Workshop consists of a series of incremental activities that helps participants to:

o celebrate their similarities and differences, recognize the misinformation they have learned about various groups, including their own, learn about and reevaluate personal attitudes and behaviors based on the impact of prejudice and discrimination, claim pride in their group identities, understand the personal impact of discrimination through the telling of stories, and learn hands-on tools for dealing effectively with offensive remarks and behaviors.

Day One Dinner: During dinner at the Resident Dining Hall, students learn about the Food Security Project in an effort to raise awareness about food insecurity on campus and the resources available to students. Through the Food Security Project, workshops are also available on money management, budget friendly meals, and other ways to educate students in need. Sleep Accommodations. Students will stay overnight at University Courtyard. While at University Courtyard, students will learn how they will have the opportunity to meet students from all walks of life and forge friendships that will last far beyond the college years, and how they provide a variety of programs designed to supplement and support the academic success of residents.

ADDITIONAL INFORMATION:

Day Two: During breakfast in the Residence Dining Hall students learn about the International Student Services and Programs office that leads Fresno State's efforts in recruiting international students and support services available throughout their career at Fresno State. Then a tour of the Madden Library with stops at the Learning Center where they will be provided information on the quality services and programs they provide to foster student success, including tutoring in subjects ranging from Accounting to writing, a tour of Services for Students with Disabilities that provides resources for students to achieve academic, social and cultural excellence, tour of the Prayer and Meditation Space in the Library, room 3203, which is available for student, faculty and staff use by individuals of all beliefs, cultures and traditions, tour of the Cross Cultural and Gender Center where students can meet new people and find a sense of belonging on campus. In addition to the programs they offer, the Center also collaborates with groups, clubs, and organizations across campus. Everyone is welcome at the Center and a tour of the Student Health Center that offers a wide array of services to assist students in long-term healthy lifestyles.