REACHING OUT: Building Campus Partnerships to Connect with First-Gen Students
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1. Recruit a Squad
2. Educate Yourself
3. Outreach
4. Experiment
5. Refine
6. Reflect
1. Recruit a Squad
Recruit a Squad

• Teaching & Learning Circles
• Discussing Common Interests
• Leveraging Expertise
Recruit a Squad: Takeaways

- Recruit/Find engaged staff
- Form a community of practice
- Find a common ground
- Build on expertise
2. Educate Yourself
Educate Yourself

- Students
- Campus resources
Educate Yourself: Takeaways

• Students
• Campus resources
3. Outreach
Contacting Stakeholders

• Across campus
• Within the library
• CeO
• Students as stakeholders?
Contacting Stakeholders: Takeaways

• Across campus
• Within the library
• Within the target community
• Remember students are stakeholders
4. Experiment
Experiment

• Try something.
  • Two Librarians on a Friday
  • Too scary and no one thinks about homework on a Friday!

• Try something else
  • One librarian twice a week Tuesday and Thursdays.
  • We are less scary when we aren’t in a pack, and there is plenty of work to do midweek.

• Flexibility is good
Experiment

• Try something!
• Did it work?
• No!!
  • Did you give it time to work?
  • Yes
• Try something else!
5. Refine
Formalize this thing

- Team formed
- Partnership in place
- Create project charter?
Communication

- Create email group
- Set schedule at beginning of semester
- Document interactions
- Informal meet-ups
The toolbox

- Inviting signage
- Nametag
- Laptop
- Giveaway materials (pens, etc.)
- Be on lookout for other things that can be of service
Strengthen Your Ties

Maintain ongoing contact with program partner
• Attend (and participate in) events held by the program
• Ask for feedback
• Be responsive
The Takeaways

• Formalize the activity
• Establish clear communication
• Collect your tools
• Cultivate your partnership
6. Reflect
Assessment

- Demonstrating value
- Documentation
- Qualitative vs. quantitative
- Objectives & goals
Assessment: Takeaways

- Determine goals near beginning of process
- Decide on documentation method
- Anticipate info stakeholders will need
Reflective Practice

• Scheduled time
• Personal / shared reflection
• Not just how, but whether/why
Reflective practice: Takeaways

• Schedule time for reflection
• Establish documentation process
Recommendations
Recommendations for Implementation

- Interpersonal skills needed (friendly, not nice)
- Check assumptions
- Get ready to build cultural competency
- Be open to this as a learning process
Recommendations for Implementation (cont’d)

• Students don’t divide assignments into research and writing
• Not too big—want to have familiar faces
• Have a good team—don’t overcommit them
Questions?

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