
Living Our Values Task Force

Orientation – Multicultural Student Welcome

Subgroup Recommendations

Status Update: October 13, 2020

To further the goal of creating a program that would welcome new multicultural students and their families to UT Dallas, Student Transition Programs (STP) staff along with representatives of the Multicultural Center (MC) and the Living Our Values Task Force are committed to implementing such a program by August 2021. Consultation with institutions that have similar programs will serve to guide the discussions. The working title for the program would be the Multicultural Student Welcome (MSW). Further, it is recommended that the development of this program be a collaboration between STP and the MC. Steps to implementing include:

1. Research – to be completed in Fall 2020
 - a. Benchmark other institutions with comparable programs to learn best practices

Status: Ongoing.

Implemented: We have received response from four other institutions regarding their programs but are still attempting to gather more information. A spreadsheet compiling the data is in our Multicultural Student Welcome Team for MC and STP staff to update. We anticipate completing this item by the end of October 2020.

- b. Analyze findings from the most recent campus climate survey for issues affecting underrepresented students regarding transition to inform the content and tone of the program

Status: Ongoing.

Implemented: We requested a timeline regarding the newest version of our campus climate survey but are waiting on confirmation on when this will be completed. To supplement this data, we have created and administered a survey for student participating in the Operation I Am program, and the survey will be posted on the Multicultural Center's webpage. We anticipate completing this item by the end of the Fall 2020 semester.

- c. Examine current programming that aligns with the purpose of the proposed MSW including:
 - Operation I Am Black Student Leadership Weekend
 - Voices Hispanic Student Leadership Weekend

Status: Ongoing.

Implemented: A spreadsheet compiling the data is in our Multicultural Student Welcome Team for MC and STP staff to update. We anticipate completing this item by the end of November 2020.

2. Planning – to be completed in Spring 2021
 - a. Ensure students who do not attend the MSW still receive information about valuable resources
 - Increase presence of the Multicultural Center at required orientation programs

Status: Ongoing.

Implemented: Arthur Gregg and Dan Long met on August 18 to discuss how to increase the presence of the MC at required orientation programs including adding content to morning welcome presentations, working with MC staff to update Freshman Orientation skits, and enhancing student worker recruiting with the help of the MC and the Black Faculty and Staff Alliance. We anticipate completing this item by the end of January 2021.

- b. To include programming and representation for intersectional identities, we will collaborate with institutional experts from other departments including:
 - Galerstein Gender Center
 - Office of Student Accessibility

Status: Will begin upon completion of Step 1

Implemented:

- c. Meet with other potential collaborative partners including:
 - Black Faculty and Staff Alliance
 - Student Counseling Center
 - Student Wellness Center
 - Student Health Center
 - Office of Financial Aid
 - Residential Life
 - Fraternity and Sorority Life

Status: Will begin upon completion of Step 1

Implemented:

- d. Work with current culturally based student organizations to have current students participate in the event to share their perspective and experience

Status: Will begin upon completion of Step 1

Implemented:

3. Execution – to be completed in Summer 2021
 - a. Based upon the findings of the above, Student Transition Programs and the Multicultural Center will work to host an MSW event to supplement Freshman Orientation and Transfer Orientation. The event will be designed to facilitate the transition for underrepresented minority students. Target date: August 2021.

Status: Will begin upon completion of Step 2

Implemented:

4. Assessment – to be completed in Fall 2021
 - a. Analyze evaluations from MSW for program improvement

Status: Will begin upon completion of Step 3

Implemented:

The long-term goal is for the MSW to become a permanent and signature program welcoming multicultural students to UT Dallas. The program growth is to be completed and available to all interested students by Summer 2025 as a supplement to other orientations. We recommend keeping class registration and other mandated orientation content (i.e. Title IX, Bystander Intervention, financial

literacy, suicide prevention education) in the required orientation programs (Freshman Orientation and Transfer Orientation).

Upon approval, the program will inevitably require additional staffing, funding, and support. Best practices have shown that programs such as this should be offered at no additional cost to the students.