Parents as Partners

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Today

• What are common transition experiences that students and parents may encounter?
• What are the roles of incoming students, their parents and the university?
• What university resources are available to aid in the Carolina experience?
Where is your student transferring from?

a. South Carolina
b. Southeast
c. Northeast/Mid-Atlantic
d. Midwest/Mountain States
e. West/Southwest/International
What is transition?

- Change

http://vimeo.com/100349352

This presentation is meant to help you navigate this transition from parent to partner by understanding our university and the resources that we provide to ensure your student can be successful.
Here we go again...
Parent Transition

• **Experience**
  - Empty Nest - a feeling of grief and loneliness parents or guardians may feel when their children leave home. Depression, a sense of loss of purpose, feelings of rejection, or worry, stress, and anxiety over the child's welfare take place and some parents often question whether or not they have adequately prepared their child to live independently.

- Fierce instinct you have to do things for your student is the elephant but you know in the long term your student needs to be able to fend for themselves.
Roles

- Parent/Guardian
  Supervisor to adviser with knowledge of the transition experience
  Caretaker to coach with knowledge of the resources they have
  Financier to occasional financier

University of South Carolina

Environment of support

Student = Emerging Adult
I expect my student to communicate with me:

a. Two or more times a day
b. Once a day
c. Two to three times per week
d. One to four times a month
e. I’ll know more from his/her Facebook than by talking to him/her
Promoting healthy communication

• How frequently will you communicate?
• How will you communicate?
• When?
Possible Scenarios
What is the biggest challenge this student is facing?

a. Health and wellness issues (i.e. stress, anxiety, mild depression)
b. Sleeping too much
c. Having trouble getting involved on campus
d. Having trouble making friends
e. All of the above
Transition

- Transfer students are usually unaware of other transfer students
- Operating from the assumption that everyone else is a native student, they feel socially isolated
- They succumb to class to car behavior – more normal for the community/technical college environment

— Marling 2013
Resources

• Student Organizations
  – Fraternity and Sorority Life
  – Multicultural Student Affairs
  – Community Service Programs
  – Leadership Programs
  – Sports clubs
  – …and much more!

• Undergraduate Research

• Study Abroad
**Transition**

*Where College Football is ‘Liked’ Most*

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>State</th>
<th>Percent of people on Facebook in each state who ‘like’ a team</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Alabama</td>
<td>34%</td>
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<tr>
<td>Nebraska</td>
<td>28</td>
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<td>Oklahoma</td>
<td>27</td>
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<td>Arkansas</td>
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<td>Iowa</td>
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<td>South Carolina</td>
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<td>Kentucky</td>
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<td>Mississippi</td>
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<td>Louisiana</td>
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<td>West Virginia</td>
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<td>Wyoming</td>
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<td>Wisconsin</td>
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<td>Michigan</td>
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<td>North Carolina</td>
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<td>Idaho</td>
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<td>Arizona</td>
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<tr>
<td>Missouri</td>
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</table>

*College football attracts the most fans in rural areas without professional teams.* There is quite strong evidence in this data that devotion to college football increases the farther you get from large cities, especially large cities with professional sports teams like N.F.L. franchises.
In case of an emergency, my student:

a. Is not afraid to call the police and others for help
b. Has the street smarts to make good decisions
c. Still has a lot to learn
d. Is oblivious to possible danger
The community of scholars at the University of South Carolina is dedicated to personal and academic excellence. Choosing to join the community obligates each member to a code of civilized behavior.

**Carolinian Creed**

As a Carolinian...

- I will practice personal and academic integrity;
- I will respect the dignity of all persons;
- I will respect the rights and property of others;
- I will discourage bigotry, while striving to learn from differences in people, ideas, and opinions;
- I will demonstrate concern for others, their feelings, and their need for conditions which support their work and development.

Allegiance to these ideals requires each Carolinian to refrain from and discourage behaviors which threaten the freedom and respect every individual deserves.
Resources

- USC Student Code of Conduct (Alcohol Policy)
- AlcoholEdu
- Talking Points
- Substance Abuse and Prevention Education Office:
  sape@sc.edu/803.777.3933
How would you respond to your student in this situation?

a. Reprimand him/her for missing the test and make sure this is a learning opportunity
b. Email your student’s academic advisor and ask for a repeal on the student’s exam grade
c. Encourage him/her to schedule a meeting with the professor and to explore campus resources for improving study skills and academic success
d. None of the above
Transition

• **Transfer Students ARE first year students!**
  – Campus Geography
  – Vocabulary
  – Academic Policy/Procedure/Standards/Expectations
  – Academic Advising Structure
  – Computer Systems
  – Course Scheduling
  – Traditions & Culture

• **Transfer Shock**
Resources

• Student Success Center
  – Tutoring
  – Supplemental Instruction
  – ACE Coaching
  – Cross Campus Advising
  – Transfer/Veteran Services
  – Financial Literacy
Resources

• Counseling and Human Development Center
• Campus Wellness
• Strom Thurmond Wellness and Fitness Center and Blatt Physical Education Center
• Healthy Carolina
• Thomson Student Health Center
FERPA/HIPAA

• Family Educational Rights and Privacy Act
• FERPA waiver
• Health Insurance Portability and Accountability Act
• The best way to get information about your student is from your student
Final Thoughts

• For You
  – Direct the rider – identify the best way, time, and frequency to communicate with your student
  – Motivate the Elephant – keep the end goal in mind. What will my student learn/not learn if I take care of this?
  – Shape the environment – stay connected to the university and take measures to reduce your own anxiety

• For Students
  – Direct the rider - Encourage your student to make a plan
  – Motivate the Elephant - Be a cheerleader, talk to them about their goals an objectives
  – Shape the environment - Remember the resources and provide advise when they are at a loss
In Summary

• Acknowledge the Transfer Transition
• Understand the balance of challenge and support
• Encourage your student to work through problems
• Recognize campus resources
• Discuss expectations with your son or daughter
Questions?