

# New Student Connections

Keeping You Connected!



## NEW STUDENT CONNECTIONS 2014-2015 MAJOR ACCOMPLISHMENTS

### NSC Goal 1: Introduce new students to the USF experience to foster a sense of belonging.

- Over 90% of new student surveyed (200) expressed that fall **Week of Welcome** strengthen their love for USF (95%) and confirmed their decision to attend (92%). These students articulated that fall Week of Welcome helped them feel welcomed to the USF community (96%), identify involvement opportunities (95%), feel a sense of belonging (88%), gain confidence to start classes (86%), and feel like they matter to the USF community (80%).
- Of the 77 students who attended **CampU**, after the program, 94% felt supported at USF, 93% felt a sense of belonging, 93% felt more confident to start their first semester, and 91% felt inspired to make a contribution to USF and/or Tampa Bay community.
- Led and organized the inaugural **First Fifty Days of Summer initiative**, a connection and transition programming series held during summer B session. 26 departments (a 333% increase from 2014) hosted 30 campus events (a 87% increase from 2014) where a minimum of 1,300 interactions occurred (# represents only 33% of the offerings).
- 10% of the incoming first-year cohort (414 students) expressed interest in joining one of the nine **Networks** offered in fall semester. As a result of their participation, student expressed feeling supported (95%), feeling a sense of belonging and community (93%), and a sense of purpose (91%).

### NSC Goal 2: Enhance opportunities for meaningful interactions that connect new students to the campus community.

- 77 first-year students (representing 13 states), 18 student leaders, and 5 staff members attended **CampU** to learn USF history and traditions, discover their strengths, and gain confidence to begin their USF experience.
- Responsible for 4,654 interactions with students via the six events hosted during the first three days of **Week of Welcome** which helped to develop a sense of belonging and affinity for the university.
- 818 student interactions took place through 63 **Network Link** events held during the fall semester. These interactions aided our new students to successfully transition to the campus community.

### NSC Goal 3 = Lead Student Affairs in creating and executing an integrated transition experience that enables first-year students to persist beyond year one.

- **CampU** participants are persisting at higher rates compared to non-participants, both in year 1 and year 2. The 2013 cohort persisted in year one at a 97% rate; the 2012 cohort persisted in year one at 92% rate and an 84% rate in their second year.
- In 2013, first-year **Network** participants (423 students) persisted at a 95% rate; higher than non-participants.
- As a result of participating in **The Network**, student participants expressed that they understood what it will take to succeed in their classes (100%) and felt confident in their academic performance (95%).
- 81 **Network** participants met individually with their Network Leader to discuss their transition into USF and develop strategies for success.

## **NEW STUDENT CONNECTIONS 2014-2015 MAJOR ACCOMPLISHMENTS**

### **NSC Goal 4 = Equip and empower student leaders for lives of meaning and purpose via an experiential leadership curriculum.**

- 27 student leaders put their theoretical knowledge to practice by collectively working **1,335 hours** between August 17-29, 2014. Serving as the backbone of NSC, they created welcoming environments, cultivated small communities, and connected thousands of new students to campus.
- Facilitated a **student leadership seminar** for 25 NSC student leaders, totaling 1,031 hours of training (41.25 hours per student). 100% of the student leaders expressed the seminar assisted them in developing their own personal leadership philosophy.
- NSC student leaders continue to be **agents of social change** through their active campus engagement. New Student Connection leaders have been recognized with university awards (Outstanding Graduating Senior, Golden Bull, College of Business's Top 25 Under 25, College of Arts and Sciences Dean's Student Leadership Society), university scholarships (MLK Alumni Scholarship), and prestigious leadership positions (USF Ambassador, SG Senate President Pro-Tempore, National Pan-Hellenic Council President, Student Chair of the Black History Month Committee).

### **NSC Goal 5: Establish sustainable business practices that maximize the productivity of human and financial resources.**

- Developed the curriculum and syllabus for a fifteen week **leadership seminar** for 25 student leaders. Framed in the Social Change model of Leadership, the seminar equipped students with the skills, knowledge, and resources they needed to be a successful leader in New Student Connections, the USF community, and in their future career.
- Increased the number of **community and university partners** which resulted in \$14,000 dollars donation of promotional items and Tampa Bay experiences for students and covered 22 registration fees for CampU.
- Developed a comprehensive model and approach to **onboarding** new professional staff in the suite.
- Expanded **human resources** with the addition of a 0.5FTE marketing graduate student, a summer graduate intern, and a fall graduate intern for the Network program.

## **ADDITIONAL PROGRESS MADE TOWARDS DEPARTMENT STRATEGIC PLAN**

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### **NSC Goal 1: Introduce new students to the USF experience to foster a sense of belonging.**

- Engaged 4,318 first-year students in conversations during undergraduate Orientation that normalize the emotional response to transition and challenge them to consider the choices they will face during college.
- Directed the university's planning efforts for Week of Welcome; a series that aids students in having a successful start to their collegiate journey. In fall 2014, 137 events were offered by 89 departments, academic units, and student organizations. Over 20,000 student touch points occurred during the week. In spring 2015, 65 events were offered by 54 departments, academic units, and student organizations.
- Led and organized the First Fifty Days initiative to support a new student's connection and transition into the USF community. In fall 2014, 81 events were advertised, 9 USF celebrations were highlighted, and 21 departments and academic units contributed to the series. In spring 2015, 35 events were advertised, 7 USF celebrations were highlighted, and 10 departments and academic units contributed to the series.

### **NSC Goal 2: Enhance opportunities for meaningful interactions that connect new students to the campus community.**

- Responsible for close to 20,000 interactions with students via programs, presentations, campus collaborations, and office visitors.

### **NSC Goal 3 = Lead Student Affairs in creating and executing an integrated transition experience that enables first-year students to persist beyond year one.**

- Conducted 4 presentations to educate our colleagues and student leaders regarding the transition experience of first-year and transfer students.

### **NSC Goal 4 = Equip and empower student leaders for lives of meaning and purpose via an experiential leadership curriculum.**

- Student Leaders from two of our three student team participated in an end of the year reflection capstone presentation. Six Peer Advisor Leaders presented their learning, growth, and experience as a leader in NSC in relation to the Social Change Model. Nine Network Leaders framed the presentations around Creating a Sense of Belonging, Connection, and Community for first-year students.
- Conducted an assessment of our Network student leaders to determine their growth in terms of personal development, acquisition of leadership skills, and career readiness as a result of their training and experiential learning.
- Received 119 applications (from 98 students) for our three student leader teams; 4.5 times the number of possible positions.

### **NSC Goal 5: Establish sustainable business practices that maximize the productivity of human and financial resources.**

- Modeled evidence based decision making by conducting student participant surveys for CampU, Week of Welcome, and The Network to gather feedback on the impact of the program, document the learning that took place, and develop recommendations for future enhancements.
- Collaborated with over 10 university departments to support the success of their new student event.
- Partnered with Housing and Residential Education and Orientation to provide joint student leader trainings.
- Contributed to the profession through a presentation at the national NODA annual conference and by serving as mentors to graduate students pursuing a career in student affairs.