**North Texas Regional P-16 Council Partners’ Activities**

**Please submit to: Melodie Basey** [**Melodie.basey@unt.edu**](mailto:Melodie.basey@unt.edu) **by:**

**Please share at least one exciting event or activity your organization is engaged in to promote student access and success to college and career.**

When first-time full-time students join us at orientation this summer, they will learn about our new First-Year TRAC, the guiding force behind our comprehensive retention effort. The First-Year TRAC has been designed to help ensure freshman success by aligning academic and engagement efforts to retain first-year students.

As part of the First-Year TRAC, students will:

Attend New Student Orientation

Attend Lion Camp

Participate in a mentor group

Take a Signature Course with a distinguished professor

Read the University’s Common Read

Attend First-Year TRAC events on campus

The new pieces of this are the mentor groups, Signature Courses, Common Read, and First-Year TRAC events.

Each mentor group will serve 25 students, and based on our current enrollment predictions, we are planning for 48 mentors. These mentors are paid undergraduate students who will be trained to help us:

* Deliver student-success content like goal setting, time management, note taking, study skills, et cetera
* Help create cohorts within the freshman class
* Help guide students to resources on campus
* Deliver some Book in Common content
* Guide students to First-Year TRAC events put on by various offices

Signature Courses are engaging, dynamic courses reserved for first-year freshmen enrolled in the University College. These courses should highlight the faculty member’s passion for the topic and communicate knowledge on that topic for a general first-year student. Ideal Signature Courses include interactive student engagement including, for example, group projects, oral presentations, group discussion, proposals/ sales pitches, and other active, experiential learning strategies.

Signature Courses must meet the following Core Curriculum objectives:

1. In written, oral, and/or visual communication, students will communicate in a manner appropriate to audience and occasion, with an evident message and organizational structure.
2. Students will be able to analyze, evaluate, or solve problems when given a set of circumstances, data, texts, or art.
3. Students will demonstrate an understanding of societal and/or civic issues.

Students enrolled in Signature Courses will participate in “The Lionizing,” a culminating semester-end event where they will present a project from the course in the genre of the instructor’s choice. These courses have been proposed to be part of our Core Curriculum.

Each academic year the University will select a Common Read with which the campus will read and engage. If funds permit, students enrolled in the University College will be invited to present a project on the Common Read that demonstrates their understanding of the text. Students who participate in these presentations will be entered into a contest to go on a university-sponsored trip to Washington, D.C. during Spring Break of their freshman year. This Common Read may or may not be situated within a course work, but it will certainly be integrated in Lion Camp, Mentor Groups, and First-Year TRAC events.

First-Year TRAC events are freshman-centric events marketed with the First-Year TRAC logo. Freshman attendance will be tracked so students can measure their attendance and engagement on campus.

**When was it or when will it happen?**

The program begins summer 2017.

**Describe the planned or outcomes and successes?**

We hope to improve:

* Our retention rate of first-time full-time students
* Student satisfaction with their first-year experience
* Student’s engagement with events on campus

**Share contact information for others to learn more (Name, telephone number, and email).**

Tabetha Adkins, Ph.D.

Dean of the University College

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**Please share pictures or websites.**

More coming soon: http://www.tamuc.edu/academics/UniversityCollege/mentorgroups/default.aspx

Thank you!