

Peer Mentoring – Orientation, Transition and Retention

1. Department Purpose and/or Mission Statement

In Roadways Peer Mentoring our mission is to help all MSU Denver students become successful college students by assisting them in developing strong skills for life and college success.

- **Provide students with an instant connection** with trained Roadways Peer Mentors, who can offer a complete picture of campus life.
- **Give Peer Mentors leadership opportunities** to serve the MSU Denver community, students and the Denver Metro community.
- **Offer resources and opportunities** on a variety of programs and events that touch on the full experience of campus life.
- **Foster community** with students where they can share their unique academic and extra-curricular interests.

2. List of Major Departmental Programs

- **Co-Curricular programming:** Programming offered outside of the classroom setting to foster community and belonging on the MSU Denver campus. Skill building and academic support resources such as: test-taking skills, study-skills, and faculty connection are included.
- **Community Service:** Opportunities for students to serve the Denver Metro community and build partnerships and collaborations within and outside of the MSU Denver community.
- **Outreach and communication:** Providing class visits, support of advising programming, and other collaborative efforts were made to “spread the word” of peer mentoring support.

3. Departmental Fast Facts

- **Number of employees** - Three professional staff members and 75 student employees.
- **Annual Budget** – Roadways Budget: \$140,291, One-time funds: Provost: \$250,000, and Classroom-to-Career Grant: \$187, 850. TOTAL : \$578, 141.
- **Number of students served per year** – With only one-semester of data, we served 789 students in Fall 2018.

4. Unique departmental attributes/characteristics

- Every incoming MSU Denver student is assigned a peer mentor based off on their major/school/college. The Peer Mentoring Program at this time is an “opt-out” program.

5. Noteworthy accomplishments/highlights

- 84% of the participants registered for Spring 2019 and 96% of the peer mentors registered for Spring 2019.
- Students who participated in and engaged with their peer mentor had a higher completion rate (94%), and enrolled in a higher number of credits for Spring 2019, than those who did not participate.

6. Most salient departmental challenges

- Facilitating equitable programs to better serve myriad student populations and their intersecting identities, Time to plan and develop sustainable and meaningful programs and partnerships on campus, Balancing the needs of students, staff, faculty and administrators.

7. Brief description of how program impact/efficacy is assessed – We track numbers of students participating in outreach efforts (email, phone call, one-on-one appointments, and event participation.) and retention rates for students involved in the programs. Additionally, post-programming surveys are used assess programming effectiveness.