

## **Summer Melt/Summer Bridge Programming – Orientation, Transition and Retention**

### **1. Department Purpose and /or Mission Statement**

Summer Melt (high school to first semester of college) and Summer Bridge (summer between first and second years) programs support students and keep them engaged during key transition periods by building sense of community, enhancing academic skills, fostering career exploration, and fostering holistic development.

### **2. List of Major Departmental Programs**

**Academic & Career Excellence (A.C.E.) Summer Scholarship-** A scholarship that covers in-state tuition and fees for 6 credits of summer classes for freshman with a 2.0-3.0 GPA who are at risk of not retaining to sophomore year. Recipients are required to attend a series of college success and career exploration sessions over the course of the summer.

**College Works-** Summer Melt program in partnership with the Denver Workforce office and Adams County that allows incoming high school students the opportunity to work in various offices on campus before their first year at MSU Denver. Participants attend weekly college preparation sessions and are teamed with a College Works peer mentor. Students receive support throughout their time at MSU Denver from College Works staff.

**High School Outreach Peer Mentors-** This group of peer mentors each has a caseload of Denver area high school students who have been accepted to MSU Denver. The mentors send the youth weekly emails with information about resources on campus, what college is like, what next steps for the youth are, etc. The mentors conduct school visits, assist Admissions with various recruiting events, and host events for incoming high school students so they can get acclimated to campus. The mentors offer themselves as a resource to the youth for any questions they have about transitioning to MSU Denver.

### **3. Departmental Fast Facts**

- 1 Full-time administrator, 11 student peer mentors.
- Annual Budget: \$20,000 base budget plus one-time C2 grant funding of \$67,500 for High School Outreach Peer Mentors.
- Number of Students Served per Year: A.C.E. Scholarship- 37 scholars; College Works – 40; High School Outreach Peer Mentors – contact 1100 high school students.

### **4. Unique Departmental Attributes/Characteristics**

Students are often forgotten about in the summer and not thought about until fall comes around and we start looking at registration numbers. Our department offers students support over this transitional time while also providing them the tools to be successful after the summer. We serve as an anchor to students so they have one person they can reach out to with **any** questions they have.

### **5. Noteworthy Accomplishments/ Highlights**

This is a new program in 2018-2019. We are in the process of awarding 37 summer scholarships and have received 54 applications for the College Works program. We built relationships with multiple community partners to assist with recruiting for programs and letting youth know about our resources over the summer.

### **6. Most Salient Departmental Challenges** Securing permanent funding for High School Outreach Peer Mentors, recruiting students for the programs, connecting to high school students while having little opportunity for face to face interactions.

### **7. Brief Description of How Program Impact/Efficacy is Assessed**

We will be examining matriculation and retention rates for students involved in the programs. Post-interaction qualitative surveys will be utilized to assess effectiveness of programs, gain insight into student perceptions, and identify areas for improvement.