

Cal Poly First Year Experience

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FIRST YEAR EXPERIENCE

Helping Students Achieve Peak to Peak Performance



Background Information

- First Year Experience Working Group (2005)
 - The group will consider particular factors that may influence students' levels of academic success and sense of belonging during their first year at Cal Poly.

First Year Experience Working Group

- Assess Current Cal Poly student experience
- Review curriculum of first year orientation courses currently taught
- Report on observations or articulated needs for academic and co-curricular programs
- Benchmark successful institutional programs, CSUs and peer institutions

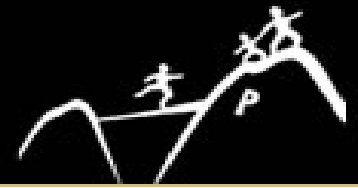
First Year Experience Faculty Associate

- Appointment began Winter, 2006
- Communicate and connect with campus community
- Develop Academic Pilot Programs
- Consider Global/University approach to advance the FYE at Cal Poly



FYE Program 2006 – 2008 Accomplishments

- New FYE Website –
<http://firstyear.calpoly.edu> - launched
September, 2006 – to include:
 - Tips and Resources for Students
 - A Student Chat Room and an FYE Blog Site
 - Faculty Resources and Information
 - Resources and Information for Parents



FYE Program 2006 – 2008 Accomplishments

- Weekly Electronic Newsletter for FYE students – to include:
 - Study Skills Tip of the Week
 - The Health Lives Tip of the Week
 - Resource of the Week
 - Quote of the Week

FYE Program 2006 – 2008 Accomplishments

- Research regarding First Year Experience programs and courses:
 - Relationship between First Year Student Sense of Community and Student Retention
 - Relationship between First Year Experience courses and Student Academic Success

Research Findings

- Q. Does first year student's Sense of Community influence their intent to return to Cal Poly?
- A. Yes- sense of community was shown to have a significant influence ($\beta = .99$) on intent to return to Cal Poly. Meaning that students with a higher sense of community are more likely to persist than students with a lower sense of community.

Research Findings

- Q. What variables influence student's sense of community?
- A. 3 variables had a positive influence on sense of community: White ethnicity ($\beta = .16$) Membership in Greek system ($\beta = .11$), and Membership in Campus clubs ($\beta = .07$).

Research Findings

- Q. What variables influence student's intent to return to Cal Poly?

- A.

Variable	Intent to Return
On campus residence	0.25
White ethnicity	0.28
Greek Membership	0.17
Desire to change majors	-0.16
On campus employment	0.51
No employment	0.37

FYE Program

2006 – 2008 Accomplishments

- Hosting First Year Experience Round-Table Discussions with faculty, staff, administrators, and students from across campus
- Having FYE Research Posters and Oral Presentations accepted for presentation at National FYE Conferences

FYE Program

2006 – 2008 Accomplishments

- Welcoming Dr. Kathy Small, author of "My Freshman Year", to campus for multiple presentations and discussion sessions
- Welcome Visits to All New Faculty



FYE Program 2006 – 2008 Accomplishments

- Launching a student to student mentoring program
- Researching factors that influence student decisions to participate in mentoring programs

FYE

Campus Collaboration/Involvement

- Bok, Book Colloquium
 - Our Underachieving Colleges
- WASC
 - Integrated Student Learning
- CAFES
 - Recruitment & Diversity Committee
- NSSE
 - Data Analysis and Cal Poly Application

Future of the FYE Program

- Partner with CTL
 - Fostering a Sense of Community in the College Classroom
 - Key Components of First Year Courses
- Examine the influence of additional student housing on the FYE at Cal Poly
- University Mentoring Program

Future of the FYE Program

- How can FYE inform WOW, SAS, Athletics
- How can FYE serve campus programs
- Issues of Diversity and the FYE Program
- NSEE Implications
 - Student Relationships

FYE Program: The Next Steps

- Infrastructure is in place
 - Web Site, Newsletter, Campus Connections
- Campus Climate is ripe with potential
 - Housing, Diversity, NSEE, Mentoring
- Hear from Stake Holders
 - All of YOU 😊!
- Articulate a Plan/Vision for the Future