THE FIRST YEAR
FOSTERING COMMUNITY & ENGAGEMENT THROUGH TRANSITIONAL PROGRAMS

2023 NASPA SYMPOSIUM ON MILITARY-CONNECTED STUDENTS
WHO ARE WE?

LISA CHANDLER
SHE/HERS
Assistant Director

BRIANNA RIDENOUR
SHE/HERS
Program Coordinator

ADULT LEARNER AND VETERAN SERVICES
COLORADO STATE UNIVERSITY
OVERVIEW

- **OUR APPROACH TO STUDENT SUCCESS**
- **OUR FIRST YEAR & TRANSITION PROGRAMS**
- **HOW TO APPLY THIS IN YOUR WORK**
BEFORE WE BEGIN...

**GROUP 1**

Name one unspoken rule in higher education that seemed life-changing when you learned it.

**REFLECTION**

_Name Pronouns Role_

Answer to the respective prompt

**GROUP 2**

What is something that needed to be present for you to feel comfortable asking for help as a student?
OUR APPROACH

• ASSET-BASED LENS

• JOINT SPACE

• VALUES OF COMMUNITY & ENGAGEMENT

• CREATING STRONG SELF-ADVOCATES BY BEING PROACTIVE
OUR PROGRAMS

HELPING STUDENTS TO, THROUGH, AND BEYOND GRADUATION

Starting before the first semester.

Using Orientation as a tool for outreach.
SUMMER BRIDGE PROGRAM

1

- 4-WEEK PROGRAM
  - MEETING MONDAY-FRIDAY
    - FROM 9:00 AM - 12:30 PM
  - 4 ACADEMIC DAYS
  - 1 SOCIAL ENGAGEMENT DAY

- COHORT MODEL
  - 15-20 STUDENTS

- PERKS
  - SCHOLARSHIP AWARD FOR COMPLETION
  - ACCESS TO ALVS STAFF
  - ON-CAMPUS PARKING
  - 0 CREDITS = LOW STRESS ENVIRONMENT
ELEVATE Overview

ACADEMICS
- Academic Preparation with CSU faculty & graduate instructors
  - Math 100-Level Courses
  - English/Composition 150 or 130

SOCIAL ENGAGEMENT
- Opportunities to build community and explore Fort Collins
  - CliftonStrengths Workshop
  - Community Scavenger Hunts
  - Local Hike

RESOURCE FACILITATION
- Access to CSU resources
  - Library and Student Center Tours
  - Writing & Pre-Calc Center Tours
ELEVATE IMPACT

• FIRST 3 YEARS OF ELEVATE, RETENTION/GRADUATION WAS AROUND 60%

• LAST 2 YEARS OF ELEVATE, RETENTION IS AROUND 80%

• STUDENT INVOLVEMENT
  ○ RESEARCH LABS
  ○ ON-CAMPUS JOBS
  ○ STUDENT ORGANIZATION INVOLVEMENT & LEADERSHIP
NEW STUDENT SEMINAR

2

IU 172

Adult Learner and Veteran Services
New Student Seminar

- 8-WEEK, 1-CREDIT COURSE
  - MEETS TWICE PER WEEK
  - 50-MINUTE PERIODS

- TRANSFER & NONTRADITIONAL STUDENTS

- TAUGHT BY ALVS PROGRAM COORDINATOR & ALVS PEER FACILITATOR | INCLUDES TWO 1:1 MEETINGS WITH STUDENTS

- PARTNERSHIP WITH THE OFFICE OF ORIENTATION AND TRANSITION PROGRAMS
  - STUDENTS ARE GIVEN A COURSE REGISTRATION CODE DURING ORIENTATION
SELF-AWARENESS & REFLECTION
- CliftonStrengths
- Values & Identity
- Differences between last academic/work experience and CSU

RESOURCE FACILITATION
- Navigating campus resources through
  - How to Read Your Syllabi
  - How to Navigate Canvas, PDFs, Microsoft Office
  - Student Resource Scavenger Hunt

PLANNING THROUGH GOALS
- Final Engagement Plan - a cumulative project/presentation
IU172 IMPACT

- Increased class size from Y1 to Y2 = 12 students to 18
- Increased sense of belonging to campus
- Increased student involvement

"The ALVS New Student Seminar helped ground me into a chaotic pandemic-riddled university experience after nearly 10 years of professional work, and I doubt I would've had the courage to ask for as much help as I have without its guidance and knowing where we could go." - IU172 Student '22
Continued Engagement

By combining both Elevate & IU172 students, we have continued outreach to them beyond their initial programming with us.

Program Alumni Engagement
KEYS TO SUCCESS

JOINT PROGRAMMING
Creating spaces for connection across experience and identity.

PARTNERSHIPS
- Expanding our campus and community network of Champions for our students.
- Providing students access to various entities of support.

MAKING THE IMPLICIT EXPLICIT
- Introducing information that is seen as common knowledge as a tool for being successful on campus.
- Creating opportunities for critical reflection and values alignment.
**ACTION ITEMS**

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<tr>
<th>YOUR APPROACH</th>
<th>YOUR NETWORK</th>
<th>YOUR IMPACT</th>
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<td>Consider your approach to supporting military-connected students on your campus.</td>
<td>Consider the ways you're connecting students to a community and the vast resources that support students on campus.</td>
<td>Consider your assumptions as to what is common knowledge when it comes to higher education and asking for support.</td>
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<td>Have you thought about a joint model?</td>
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**QUESTIONS?**
CONTACT US

(970) 491-3977

brianna.ridenour@colostate.edu

lisa.chandler@colostate.edu

alvs.colostate.edu

CONNECT WITH OUR OFFICE

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COLORADO STATE UNIVERSITY

