GPS Program Overview

Mission

K-State First, the university’s first-year experience program, is home to the Guide to Personal Success (GPS) program. GPS matches first-year students with a campus professional for a one-on-one mentoring relationship. The program strives to create a strong campus community and increase first-year engagement by fostering interactions between students and staff, faculty, graduate students and recent area alumni.

Impact

Mentoring matters. A recent review of higher education literature found that mentoring relationships are associated with a wide array of positive educational outcomes ranging from vocational discernment to academic success.

OVER 1,400 MENTEES and 350 GUIDES have been directly impacted by the GPS program since its inception at K-State in 2009. The first-to-second year RETENTION RATES for GPS mentees have MET or EXCEEDED the university average every year. In the fall of 2012, mentees reported OVER 100 INTERACTIONS with campus resource offices.

Participants

The GPS program is open to all first-year students on a first-come, first-served basis. The program provides a unique and personalized mentoring opportunity for everyone involved.

2011-2012 GPS MENTEE SNAPSHOT

- **Multicultural** students made up 21% of the GPS mentee population.
- 25% of all GPS mentees were **out-of-state** students.
- **All Undergraduate Colleges** on the Manhattan campus were represented.
- The breakdown of **Men and Women** involved was approximately 50/50.
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GPS Guides are campus professionals who volunteer their time to invest in the lives of first-year students. A variety of compatibility factors are used to match mentors and mentees. Thus, it is critical for the program to have wide-representation throughout the K-State community. Last year brought more Guides than ever to the program with 180 active participants. More will be needed to meet the anticipated student demand in 2013.

Get Involved

GPS Guides and mentees are encouraged to connect in-person three times per semester either at a program sponsored event or on their own. This structure allows for a flexible time commitment, defined by both the individual Guide and their mentee(s).

In the past, mentees and Guides have connected

At local COFFEE SHOPS and RESTAURANTS
Through ONLINE interactions
By networking with on-campus RESOURCE OFFICES
At GPS Connect Events

(Just to name a few!)

Sign-up

Interested participants should visit http://www.k-state.edu/gps/getinvolved to complete the registration survey. The GPS Guide Manual and program video are available on the GPS website.

Complete the REGISTRATION SURVEY
Receive your MENTEE MATCH information in August
SET-UP A TIME to meet once school begins
CONNECT at least three times per semester

This program is only possible because of individuals like you. Please consider becoming a Guide!