University of Colorado Denver

5th Annual Undergraduate Experiences Symposium

Foundations of Excellence: Implementing the Path Toward Excellence for First-Year Students

Friday, October 2, 2009 - 8:30am-2:30pm
St. Cajetan’s Main Hall, Auraria Campus

Topics for Discussion:
- Strengthening First-Year Experience through Assessment
- Leadership and Coordination for an Effective Student Transition
- Academic Excellence in a Period of Large First-Year Student Enrollment Growth
- Roles of Faculty and Staff in the First-Year Experience

Goals and Objectives:
- Clarify goals of the first-year experience
- Identify programs and develop leadership principles required to strengthen the first-year experience
- Prioritize recommendations for improved student learning and maintenance of academic excellence
- Move Foundations of Excellence Report recommendations toward implementation

Keynote Speaker:
Dr. Scott Evenbeck, Dean, University College, Indiana University and Purdue University at Indianapolis

Scott E. Evenbeck is Professor of Psychology and Dean of University College at Indiana University-Purdue University at Indianapolis (IUPUI). Evenbeck has been involved for many years in the design and assessment of general education, including the development, ongoing implementation, and assessment of IUPUI's outcomes for student learning. He has also played a major role in various P-16 initiatives to support student academic achievement and in retention initiatives for Indiana's higher education.

Dr. Evenbeck represented IUPUI in the Association of American Colleges and Universities (AAC&U) Greater Expectations project and has served as a Task Force Advisor for the Foundations of Excellence in the First College Year.

For Registration & Information:
www.cudenver.edu/ue

Presented by: Undergraduate Experiences, Provost's Office, and Center for Faculty Development
Symposium Objectives
The following list contains specific objectives to be achieved during the day-long symposium. Coordination between Provost Nairn and keynote speaker Evenbeck is very important.

Using the information and recommendations from the Foundations of Excellence Final Report:
1. Clarify the purposes and goals of the first-year experience at UC Denver
2. Identify programs and develop leadership principles required to strengthen the first-year experience at UC Denver
3. Prioritize recommendations for improved student learning and maintenance of academic excellence for UC Denver undergraduate students

Symposium Break-Out Sessions
2-3 tables of 9-10 people each, Table Leader and Discussion Recorder
Break-out session topics to achieve the goals support achievement of objectives identified above

1. Strengthening FYE Through Assessment – FYE learning outcomes for accreditation, use of NSSE and FoE data to meet FYE goals, improving the assessment culture to increase student retention, communicating assessment information
2. Leadership and Coordination for an Effective Student Transition – leadership principles needed to coordinate first-year student (including international and non-resident) orientation, housing, advising, placement, registration, extended orientation, and convocation
3. Academic Excellence in a Period of Large FY Student Enrollment Growth – access to and maintenance of academic excellence, role of larger classes and graduate student instruction, prioritization of academic and student support resources, prioritization of FYE programs
4. Roles of Faculty and Staff in FYE – faculty roles, staff roles, coordinated roles, improved communication around FYE, rewards, professional development

Symposium Agenda Schedule
8:30-9:00  Registration and continental breakfast

9:00-9:15  Welcome and Symposium overview  John Lanning
9:15-9:45  Opening remarks  Rod Nairn
9:45-10:45  Keynote Presentation + Q/A  Scott Evenbeck
10:45-11:00  Break
11:00-12:15  Break-out Sessions
   • Strengthening FYE through Assessment
   • Leadership and Coordination for an Effective Student Transition
   • Academic Excellence in a Period of Large FY Student Enrollment Growth
   • Roles of Faculty and Staff in FYE

12:15-12:45  Lunch
   • Table Leaders coordinate and combine reports

12:45-2:00  Report out presentations by topic and oversight  Scott Evenbeck
2:00-2:30  Wrap-up and comments  Rod Nairn