

THE SIMPLE POWER OF NAMES

Learn about the importance of using students' names with NameCoach to enhance sense of belonging which directly impacts academic success



BELONGING IS A DEEPLY ROOTED HUMAN NEED

The number one key to student success in college pertains to the concept of belonging. A basic human need, students' sense of belonging has been associated with positive outcomes in college, including academic achievement, satisfaction, and retention (Strayhorn, 2012). Lack of use of student names by instructors and peers is one of the most alienating aspects of classroom environment (Griffiths, 2010).

HONOR STUDENTS' NAMES

Mispronounced names are a constant, everyday reminder that a student does not belong and disproportionately plague students from minoritized backgrounds.

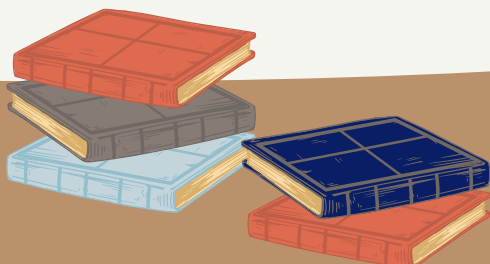


"Pronouncing names correctly is critical to enhancing sense of belonging. Everyone wants to attend Cheers University where everyone knows your name and they're awfully glad you came."



MAKE AN EFFORT

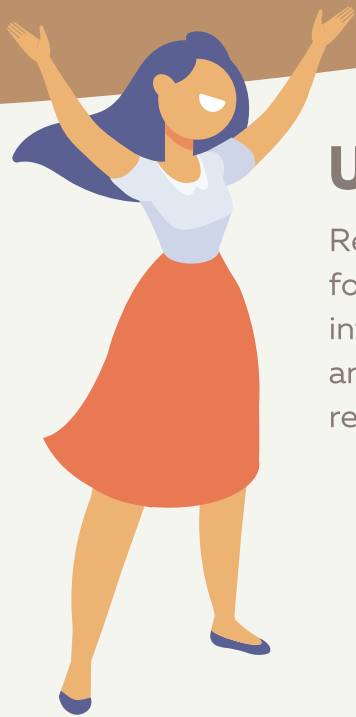
Making an effort to learn students' names can help combat students' feeling of invisibility, reduce stress, and increase academic performance (Sue, 2010; Walton & Cohen, 2007).



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Strategies to help you learn students' names to build better rapport in the classroom and bolster students' sense of belonging



USE NAMECOACH

Record your own name and give students credit for recording their names in NameCoach, which is integrated into Canvas. Review pronunciations and use the NameCoach roster as a quick reference during semester.

ENCOURAGE ALL

Thank students that have already added their pronunciations to NameCoach and encourage all students to use the tool, even if they think their names are easy to pronounce. This helps normalize the sharing of information.

If you mispronounce a student's name, apologize and say the correct name. No need to dwell on mistake but making an effort to use the correct pronunciation in the future will go a long way!



DURING CLASS

Use name placards in the classroom. Not only will you be able to call students by name, but they can learn each others' names as well. When a student raises their hand, ask them to say their name first and repeat it back when you respond.



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