Starting Over: Serving the Needs of Transfer Students

Learning Community Institute
May 7, 2007

Rhonda Wiley-Jones
Darlene Fratzke
Roger Bertelsen
Kevin Saunders
Who Are Transfer Students?
ISU Learning Community Context

• Learning Communities with Transfer Options (handout)

• Overview of data collection
  – (Agriculture, Construction Engineering, Dept. of Residence, Transport, WISE)

A Note About Handout Notes - please use for collecting ideas and strategies
Pressures

• Financial
• Academic
• Transition
• Responsibilities outside ISU

Transition Aids

• Faculty and Advisors
• Orientation
• Peer Mentors
• Other Students
• Information Sources
Adjustment to ISU

• Academic
  – Class size, learning skills, time management, test taking, rigor, transferring credit, may not think that they need academic support

• Social
  – “Outsiders,” “Jumped in the middle,” commuter, student clubs, meeting other students

• Campus Life
  – Parking, CyRide, scholarships, degree audits, four-year plans, support resources
  – First weeks are very important
Adjustment to ISU

• Orientation
  – May not attend, sometimes FY structure not meet needs, interest areas may be different, timing of information

• Finding information
  – Information needed before arrival, general websites, types of information (e.g., housing, child care, scholarships)
Connection to ISU

• Chose ISU for academic programs
• Professional organizations
• Communication
  – Timing and format of information, details of support resources
• Difficulty in developing social connection
• Impact of multiple transition challenges
Learning Communities

• Why do students choose to join (or not)?
• What do students like about learning communities?
• How do we promote learning communities and recruit students?
• What are program challenges?
Useful Resources

• Example Syllabus Overview
• Designing Assignments