Randi Napientek

Northern Illinois University is entering its fourth year of implementation for the MAP-Works program and NIU students’ success continues to increase. Incoming students who have participated in the MAP-Works program have continued to show the ability to earn a higher GPA, successfully complete additional courses, and reduce the risk of academic probation while benefitting from additional NIU support and assistance.

MAP-Works not only provides students with a (continued on page 3)

BY THE NUMBERS: GPA AND CREDITS EARNED COMPARISONS FOR MAP-WORKS STUDENTS

Karla Neal

Looking back at our own out of the classroom undergraduate experiences, some of us may have found personal growth by being involved in student government, the programming board, a Greek organization, an academic-based student organization, a residence hall council, a sports team, the arts, or just by self-reflecting about who we were and where we were going. At the beginning, some of us may have not had any idea of what opportunities were offered. However, thanks to a caring professor, advisor, student affairs professional, or a peer, we found out about an opportunity to get involved and that opportunity served as a way for us to learn about ourselves, relationships, team work, our field, or some other valuable lesson that has helped us make sense of the world that we live in.

As NIU faculty and staff members, we now have the opportunity, in addition to our job responsibilities, to become that someone who helps a student get connected to a valuable involvement opportunity that will help in their development. As one way to support the holistic development of students, here are just a few out of the outside the classroom involvement opportunities that your new students may appreciate becoming aware of: (continued on page 4)
Events Affecting You and Your Students: Fall 2012

- Classes Begin
  Monday, August 27th
- Last day to add or drop a course via MyNIU
  Sunday, September 2nd
- Labor Day (university closed)
  Monday, September 3rd
- Last day to add or drop a course
  Friday, September 7th
- Last day to withdraw from course or the university
  Friday, October 19th
- Thanksgiving Break
  Wednesday, November 21st-Sunday, November 25th
- Last day to change major effective Fall 2012
  Thursday, November 29th
- Last day to withdraw from the university (academic jeopardy)
  Friday, November 16th
- Last Day of Classes
  Saturday, December 8th
- Final Exams
  Monday, December 10th-Saturday, December 15th

SUCCESS EVENTS: Student Academic Success Fall 2012

- Soup & Success: It’s About Time (Management)
  Tuesday, September 4th, 12-1 pm
  HSC Illinois Room
- Soup & Success: Reading Strategies
  Wednesday, September 12th, 12-1 pm
  HSC Illinois Room
- MAP-Works Fall Transition Survey
  Saturday, September 15th—Monday, October 8th
- Soup & Success: Public Speaking 101
  Thursday, September 20th, 12-1:30 pm
  HSC Illinois Room
- Soup & Success: Financial Aid & Scholarships
  Tuesday, September 25th, 12-1 pm
  HSC Illinois Room
- Soup & Success: Test Prep/Anxiety Relief
  Wednesday, October 3rd, 12-1 pm
  HSC Illinois Room
- MIDSemester Check
  Tuesday, October 16th, 4-6 pm & Wednesday, October 17th, 6-8 pm
  HSC Illinois Room
- MAP-Works Fall Check Up Survey
  Saturday, November 3rd—Friday, November 16th
As we welcome new students back to campus and returning student home, there is a new chapter to begin as a Huskie. The fun of welcoming back will slowly fade and students will buckle down for classes and homework. Mid-semester and midterms fall on the eighth week of classes and, by this time, students have finally become acclimated with the campus and new classes for the semester. Many students have turned in a paper or completed their first exam and are in the full swing of college life. Mid-semester is when they will notice multiple exams or papers will be due and stress may begin to build up. The struggle of being in college will begin to make a difference in students’ grades. The Office of Student Academic Success and the Academic Advising Center would like to help you share support information for students as we progress through the fall semester. Here are a few questions to ask students:

- Are you having trouble getting started this semester?
- Are you new to NIU this semester and trying to find services or places to get your questions answered?
- Do you have test anxiety?
- Are you struggling in your courses?
- Are you having trouble studying?
- Do you feel like you are drowning in debt and don’t know what to do?
- Do you feel like there are not enough hours in the day to get everything done?

Many students will answer yes to at least one of these questions and MIDSEMESTER Check can help them!

What is MIDSEMESTER Check? This workshop is designed for students to self-evaluate how they are doing and give tips on how to improve. The great news is the workshop will be held on two nights to give those students who cannot attend the first night the opportunity to participate in the same workshop the second night. The workshop will be held on Tuesday, October 16 from 4 pm - 6 pm and Wednesday, October 17 from 6 pm - 8 pm, both in the Holmes Student Center, Illinois Room.

If you find that students are struggling with time management, test anxiety, succeeding in large lecture halls, and many more sessions. MIDSEMESTER Check is a wonderful program to help support students outside the classroom and for your classroom! For more information and specific presentation topics, please visit http://www.niu.edu/osas/programs/MidSemesterCheck.shtml.

MAP-Works (continued from page one)

summary report that highlights personal strengths and possible challenges as well as related campus resources, but also allows faculty and staff members to aid in their students’ transition to the university.

MAP-Works identifies students who might be having difficulty transitioning to the university. MAP-Works allows the faculty or staff member to efficiently contact students who are in need of some additional assistance, while providing encouragement and positive reinforcement to those students who are doing well. This identification allows faculty and staff to have meaningful and impactful communication with their transitioning students as well as to make data driven decisions about programing that is best suited for their students.

We need your help in encouraging our students to participate in this important retention initiative here at NIU. Below are important dates for the MAP-Works Survey:

Fall Transition Survey: September 15th to October 8th.
Fall Check Up Survey: November 3rd to November 19th
Spring Transition Survey: February 2nd to February 25th

In addition, if you are interested in participating in the program as a faculty or staff member, please do not hesitate to contact our office. For more information on the program, training, or brownbag lunch sessions, please visit www.niu.edu/osas/programs/MAPWorks
Soup & Success is a series of informational workshops geared towards providing student centered service and encouraging student success initiatives. Each workshop is based on a topic that is very important to being a successful NIU student. Some of the topics include time management, reading strategies, public speaking 101, financial aid and scholarships and test preparation/anxiety relief. The Office of Student Academic Success provides soup to make this a comfortable environment for students to relax and engage with their speaker. It is encouraged for students to attend every session and ask questions so they get the most out of each workshop. All sessions are open to all students. Students can attend any session they wish without a need to RSVP. For more information visit: http://www.niu.edu/osas/programs/SoupSuccess.shtml

Student Involvement and Leadership Development – Leadership Academy — Dino Martinez

Student Involvement & Leadership Development (SILD) is proud to announce the continuation of their Leadership Academy. There are three tiers or levels that Leadership Academy students must navigate to complete the program. These tiers are based on three developmental leadership competencies and experiences levels that have been defined as Emerging, Evolving, and Engaging Leadership levels. Most Leadership Academy participants complete the Leadership Academy in three years (averaging one tier per year). However, because the program is self-directed and self-paced, there are some students who have completed the Leadership Academy in as few as three semesters.

During the academic year, the Leadership Academy will host workshops focusing on each of the five leadership practices, along with other leadership topics. Any and all NIU students are invited to become a member of the Leadership Academy. We invite students to consider the benefits of the Leadership Academy. Many employers report that while they seek academically strong students, they also seek to find students who have demonstrated the ability to lead and inspire others, as well as contribute to a positive work team environment. Involvement in the Leadership Academy can serve as a catalyst in students’ leadership development experience. For more information or answer to any questions about the Leadership Academy, please contact Dino Martinez at dmartinez@niu.edu.

Office of Student Engagement and Experiential Learning — Rachel Tripodi

Huskie Research Rookies is a program that works to link students with faculty mentors in their major or area of interest to conduct a small-scale research project. As a Research Rookie, students will learn what research looks like in their field of study. Students will also learn how to write a formal research proposal, gain experience working alongside talented faculty, attend professional and academic enrichment activities, present their work at the annual Undergraduate Research and Artistry Day, and receive a $500 stipend at the end of the program in the spring. It is the perfect way for highly motivated students to connect with one another as well as with supportive faculty and graduate students.

We are now accepting applications for the 2012-2013 academic year. To apply, visit our website at http://www.niu.edu/engagedlearning/research/research_rookies.shtml. For more information, please contact Rachel Tripodi at rtripodi@niu.edu or 815-753-8154.

Reference