Northern Illinois University

“OHANA!” No One left Behind or Forgotten!
Northern Illinois Regional Peer Mentoring Conference
Tuesday June 16, 2015

F. Michelle Bringas, Director
Jyoti Shrestha, Graduate Assistant
Carlo Aseron, Peer Mentor
Jerry Khathakhantaphixay, Peer Mentor
Mission Statement

Core Elements
- Advocacy
- Cultural Education
- Leadership Development
- Cultural Engagement
- Community Building
- Programs & Services

“No one left behind or forgotten!”
Signature Program: “OHANA!”

Institutional Alignment

1. Aligns with President Baker’s:
   • Keystone Goal for Student Career Success
   • Pillar for Thriving Community

2. Aligns with Departmental Core Elements
   • Advocacy
   • Cultural Education
   • Leadership Development
   • Cultural Engagement
   • Community Building
   • Programs & Services

“No one left behind or forgotten!”
“OHANA!” Learning Outcomes

Students participating in “OHANA!” will:

1. Develop skills for student career success;
2. Increase awareness on issues of cultural education;
3. Engage in leadership opportunities on campus;
4. Belong to a thriving and inclusive community; and
5. Enhance awareness on how to access and utilize campus resources.

“No one left behind or forgotten!”
“OHANA!” Design

• Multi-faceted program that assists students in their academic, career, and leadership success at NIU.

• Rotating topics and activities;

• Weekly Program, Tuesday Nights, 5:00 p.m.

• Once a month recognition

• Peer Mentor Program embedded in “OHANA!”

“No one left behind or forgotten!”
“OHANA!” Nights

Tuesday, April 14
Capitol Room, Holmes Student Center
5:00 p.m.-6:00 p.m.

“OHANA!” “Mental Health & Model Minority Myth”

Asian American Center, 815-752-1177

“No one left behind or forgotten!”
“OHANA!” Nights

“No one left behind or forgotten!”
Satisfaction:

- 96% agree or strongly agree that they were satisfied with the topics;

- 94% agree or strongly agree that they were satisfied with the activities;

- 96% agree or strongly agree they enjoyed the monthly award recognitions and birthday parties.

“No one left behind or forgotten!”
Learning Outcomes:

• 87% agree or strongly agree that “OHANA!” helped and encouraged them to use their resources on campus;

• 90% agree or strongly agree that they will implement what they learned in their everyday life;

• 92% agree or strongly agree learned something new;

• 95% agree or strongly agree that “OHANA!” helped them understand and raise awareness on various topics;

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“OHANA!” Peer Mentor Program
Purpose of Peer Mentor Program

- Assist the university in maintaining a consistent Asian American enrollment that focuses on retention and graduation.
- Provides students with a support system that is based on a one-on-one interactive relationship between upper-class Asian American students and Asian American freshman and transfer students.
- The “OHANA!” Peer Mentor Program will help those students to adjust to college life and to help them succeed.
Role of a Mentor

- Provide information on Northern Illinois University services and resources;
- Plan on-campus events and socials;
- Serve as positive role model for Protégé;
- Encourage active involvement in student activities, organizations, and “OHANA!”
Mentor Experience

- Had 6 protégés in the fall and they all plan on returning to NIU;
- Assist protégés in moving into their residence halls and finding classes;
- Meet with protégés for study group sessions;
- Attend various conferences and campus events with protégés;
- Speak with protégés individually about balancing academics and social events;
End of the Year Barbeque Responses

- 26 out of 31 people (84%) agree or strongly agree that they feel part of the thriving community at "OHANA!"
- 26 out of 31 people (84%) agree or strongly agree that they feel a sense of belonging;
- 26 out of 31 people (84%) agree or strongly agree that they have developed meaningful friendship through "OHANA!"
- 25 out of 31 people (81%) agree or strongly agree that they feel as if when they come to "OHANA!" I feel people know my name;
- 25 out of 31 people (81%) agree or strongly agree that they were satisfied with the topics;
- 27 out of 31 people (87%) agree or strongly agree that they were satisfied with the activities;
Evaluation

End of the Year Barbeque

- 84% Students feel part of the community
- 84% Students feel a sense of belonging
- 84% Developed meaningful friendships
- 81% Students felt welcomed and comfortable
- 81% Satisfied with topics
- 87% Satisfied with activities
“OHANA!” & Cultural Education

Ancestry Transcending the Oceans
An exhibition of Madagascar & its cultural ties to Southeast Asia
Curated by: Anthonie Tumpag
MA candidate, Anthropology

October 1 – October 31, 2014
Northern Illinois University, DeKalb, Illinois
Founders Memorial Library 4th floor – Southeast Asia Collection Display Cases

For information, contact:
Anthonie Tumpag
z1679073@students.niu.edu

Northern Illinois University
Division of Student Affairs & Enrollment Management

To request disability related accommodations, please contact Disability Resource Center at 753-6515.
Advanced notice is appreciated.
Cultural Education

• Enhance understanding of diversity, culture, identity, and community among Asian and Asian Americans;

• Interactive means of development and self-discovery; and,

• Use videos, artifacts, lectures, and discussions.
Cultural Presentations: *Purpose & Impact*

- **Intended Purpose**: To educate about diversity, community, and (ethnic) identity;

- **Intended Impact**: Allow students to reflect on their own lives and the diverse lives of those around them; students become more cognizant of issues and their place in the greater world.
Learning Outcomes

1. Identify common labels & stereotypes between Asian and Asian Americans;

2. Understand the impact of labeling others, empathizing with those being labeled;

3. Engage in activity to remove stereotypes.
• YouTube Video: https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=72rUJLN2Bwx#t=3m40s
• Showed the divide between Asian International and Asian American students
• Discussions about labeling, stereotypes
• “Labeling” Exercise: Negative and Positive
### Cultural Presentations: *Interactive Approach*

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(Attendance: 21; Respondents: 16)

- 100% of respondents *agree or strongly agree* that they identified with the labels and stereotypes from the video;

- 100% of respondents *agree or strongly agree* that they learned how to **empathize with people** that are being labeled;

- 87% of respondents *agree or strongly agree* that they learned how to **remove stereotypes and labels with positive affirmation**;

- 93% of respondents *agree or strongly agree* that they were satisfied with the topic;

- 93% of respondents *agree or strongly agree* that they were satisfied with the activities.
"OHANA!" Training: Camping Retreat

Lake Shabbona, 30 miles south of DeKalb
Camping Retreat: Learning Outcomes

• Develop meaningful connections with Peer Mentor Team;
• Build trust and foster cohesive teamwork;
• Develop and enhance leadership ability;
• Enhance communication skills; and,
• Develop an ability to be an effective mentor.

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Camping Retreat Overview

Activities:
- Handshakes
- Assuming Identities
- Construction Tower
- Geo cache
- Group Jump Rope
- “Chopped Challenge”

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Activities selected together by
- Senior Mentors
- Asian American Staff and
- Campus Recreation Staff

Facilitated by Senior Mentors and Graduate Assistants;

Senior Mentors assume Leadership Roles.

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Camping Retreat: Evaluation

• Retreat attended by total 20 people;

• Evaluation completed by 18 people;

• Measured participants perceptions in learning “Prior” to training and “After” training.

• Participants indicated positive point difference in each learning outcome.
Camping Retreat Evaluation

- Level of Connection with Team:
  - Before: 44%
  - After: 100%
- Work as Cohesive Team:
  - Before: 31%
  - After: 100%
- Level of Communication:
  - Before: 44%
  - After: 94%
- Relationship between being a good camper & effective mentor:
  - Before: 50%
  - After: 75%
- Comfort Level in Mentor Role:
  - Before: 31%
  - After: 69%
- Effective Mentor:
  - Before: 31%
  - After: 75%
Thank you!