Assignment: Place all students on a positive career track journey, including mentoring connections with alums.

Participants: Todd Burns, Mary Alice Drain, Jeannine East, Andy Thompson, Brandon Wardell, Barb Whitesel

The students interviewed understand the need to be connected to the NIU community to enhance their educational experiences and further their career choices. Some have joined student organizations within their majors. All students were enthusiastic about connecting with alums. Some have found enriching experiences through on campus work that provides access to alumni mentors or connections to those who work in the field. One student suggested to have alumni with specific areas of expertise be available for guidance as you go through the program or course such as software knowledge. Another student advised to “Really get out there with the concept – and with specifics; how to connect, what the commitment might /would look like and what are the varieties of opportunities”. On opportunity a student suggest was office small incentives to encourage the students to be involved on campus, perhaps one credit hour, $200 scholarship, or extra credit in a course.

Lack of communication seems to continue in being a problem. Also inadequate communication, students are receiving email messages with improper labeling resulting in the deletion of important informational messages.