

SEM 2014

The First Generation and New Canadian
Experience

First Generation and New Canadian Student Experience

- What do we know about these students?
- As identified previously, many of the students face the same challenges as other students – it is the “why” that is different
- Why - they have unique needs based on their levels of cultural adjustment
- Difficult to ‘capture’ or target this group

Where did we start?

- We have been working effectively with a group that experiences similar challenges – international students
- International students are, in addition to visa students, any student who identifies themselves as international – English language learners, non-resident Canadians, new Canadians, - anyone who thinks they can benefit from our programs

How are we situated?

- Funding model is based on differential fee percentage – we receive a percentage of the fees paid by international students
- As international student numbers go up, so does our funding and our ability to grow and improve our programming
- Our department has grown from staff of 4 to staff of 10, about to be 11, in past two years, one of few departments on campus that is expanding

What is it we do?

- Succeed in Canada Program – allowing students to participate in defining their goals and then mobilizing resources around the students to help them achieve their goals
- Working with all areas of campus, administrative, student services and faculty to raise awareness of issues of cultural adjustment
- Provide intercultural training opportunities to help our campus build their intercultural communication effectiveness

Some of our Programs:

- First Language Tutoring – for core classes that have a lot of complex or abstract concepts (using trained volunteer tutors)
- Supplemental Instruction Classes in other languages
- Proactive Advising
- Embedded services in other departments, such as Career Services and Student Success Centre

Speed Dating Activity:

- Find someone you either do not know or that you have not spoken to this summit
- You will have two minutes to introduce yourself, and then share two things:
 - 1) Share something at your institution that you think works really well (in theme)
 - 2) Share something that you think your institution could do better

When the time is up, move on to another person.