A New Approach to Training and Development of Peer Mentors

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The University of Texas at Austin
First-Year Experience Office

- First-year Interest Groups (FIGs)
- Signature Courses
- Peer Mentoring Programs
- University Lecture Series
- MAP-Works®
First-year Interest Groups

• Learning Community

• Serves approximately 3,500 students annually

• Open to all FTIC students

• Mentors hired in December

• Mentor course taught January-April

• FIGs begin first day of fall term
FIG Mentor Course

- Course development
- 1 hour of course credit
- Benefits to Peer Mentors
- Benefits to first-year students
FIG Mentor Course

• Purpose & Goals
• Class size
• Outline
• Assignments & Readings
• Grading Structure

• Topics Covered:
  • Student Development Theory
  • Group Dynamics
  • Conflict Management
  • Engagement
  • Cultural Diversity
  • Oral Communication
  • Millennials & Gen Xers
Assessment

• Methods
• Data
• Enhancements/changes
Looking Ahead: Fall 2013

- Academic Communities for all entering first-year students
- Increased number of FIGs
- Increased facilitator training
Questions?

Thank you for your participation in today’s session

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