

Governors State University

Student Affairs and Enrollment Management: Reaching Vision 2020

Focus Area: **Dual Degree Program and Transfer Initiatives**

Leader(s): **Tiesha Walker**

Implementation Year: **2016-2017**

Goal #2: Support the establishment and implementation of the Center for the Junior Year to provide an exemplary physical and virtual resource center for native and transfer students to come together for information, support and guidance as they transition to their chosen major.

Objective 1:	<u>Co-host events/programs to integrate transfer juniors with native juniors.</u>
Action Items	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Collaborate with New Student Programs and the Center for Junior Year to assist with Transfer Orientation ➤ Collaborate with New Student Programs and Center for Junior Year to assist with other junior activities
Desired Outcomes and Achievements (Identify results expected)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Established co-hosting of events/programs
Achieved Outcome and Results	<p>The directors of the Center for Junior Year, New Student Programs, and DDP agreed that collaboration between departments would link DDP juniors, general transfer juniors, and native junior students to even more resources at GSU. Therefore, the following activities come into fruition:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Participated in joint “Welcome Week” student table sessions with New Student Programs and Center for Junior Year for Spring, 2017. ➤ Provided community college contact referrals to NSP for Linking Leaders-to-Leaders event (joint NSP and CJY event); event will host community college student leaders for a day-long professional development conference in Fall, 2017. <p>The Dual Degree Program staff also attended the Summer 2016 Transfer Orientation. Feedback was provided from the perspective of transfer students’ particular needs and interests. Comments focused on session content, student engagement, orientation staff, and logistics.</p>
Analysis of Results (Where outcomes met? Exceeded? Progress towards goal. Implications for AY18 Objectives.)	<p>While still in progress, the collaboration between departments for the Linking Leaders-to-Leaders event is a successful outcome; therefore, this objective has been met. DDP has strong connections with the local community colleges, and those relationships were necessary to earn the colleges’ buy-in to participate in the event. The event will be an opportunity for students to see the type of professional development GSU offers, and that participation in leadership activities is a strong component of DDP’s mission as well. Once at GSU, DDP students seek opportunities to be involved and continue advancing their experiences; therefore it is important for them to be aware of what the CJY has to offer them once they transfer.</p> <p>Implications for the future:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Expand upon DDP’s Get Jobs & Get Money Symposiums by collaborating with the Center for Junior Year. ➤ Encouraging DDP students to attend Transfer Orientation, with participation incentives.

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Objective 2:	<u>Mitigate transfer shock by assisting with the implementation of early intervention strategies.</u>
Action Items	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Help to identify most common reasons why juniors at GSU have stopped/dropped out ➤ Explore partnership with Career Services to institute a major/career exploration program offered each semester to mitigate issues that come along with students changing majors mid-program ➤ Research opportunities to utilize Starfish data in student engagement/outreach initiatives
Desired Outcomes and Achievements (Identify results expected)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Increase in number of GSU juniors who return for senior year
Achieved Outcome and Results	<p>In the spring of 2017, GSU rolled out a new student services tool “GSU STAR” utilizing Starfish Retention Software. The Dual Degree Program was provided access to the software, and completed GSU STAR/Starfish training and uploaded DDP content/page for the “live” date. DDP was then able to conduct outreach to students based on the Academic Resource Center’s “Academic Alert” lists provided in the spring by the software.</p> <p>DDP also contacted Career Services to explore partnership to assist in any major/career exploration program for juniors hosted by their department. Career Services had no requests for such events from the University, therefore no such event was available for a partnership. However, Career Services did assist with DDPs Get Jobs: Career Symposium, wherein 90% of the attendees were current juniors at GSU.</p>
Analysis of Results (Where outcomes met? Exceeded? Progress towards goal. Implications for AY18 Objectives.)	<p>The GSU STAR/Starfish tool has been a great asset to DDP student retention, and utilizing it accomplishes this objective.</p> <p>While students are still at the community college, they are required to meet with their DDP Transfer Specialist once per semester. However, once transferring to GSU, unless a student was awarded a DDP scholarship, they are not required to check in with the program. STAR/Starfish allows DDP staff to be alerted if any DDP student at GSU is indeed having difficulty, academically or otherwise. Therefore, DDP students will continue to feel supported once transferring to GSU due to GSU/DDP’s ability to provide outreach to them if flagged by STAR/Starfish.</p>

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Objective 3:	<u>Assist with promoting the GSU Center for the Junior Year and its services.</u>
Action Items	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Implement DDP and CJY informational for staff to provide introductions and discuss transfer student transition concerns, resources, initiatives, and upcoming projects/ventures ➤ Promote the vision, benefits, and resources of the CJY to our DDP students during their final term in DDP at the community college ➤ Include CJY in DDP Induction ceremonies and Online Induction
Desired Outcomes and Achievements (Identify results expected)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Increase in number of students who utilize or are familiar with CJY services
Achieved Outcome and Results	The Center for Junior Year has been added to DDP Online Induction, which DDP students complete during their last semester at the community college. The CJY content is listed with student resources at GSU and includes a list of available services, hours, location, and contact information.
Analysis of Results (Where outcomes met? Exceeded? Progress towards goal. Implications for AY18 Objectives.)	<p>DDP Induction and Online Induction are often the students' first exposure to the services available beyond DDP at GSU; therefore, it makes sense to include CJY in the information provided to students and by doing so this objective has been met. In the future, if time permits, a short live introduction to CJY may be added to the agenda so that students can hear examples of how CJY has assisted previous students with achieving unique and competitive internships that set them apart from other graduates in their field.</p> <p>As mentioned in Goal 2 Objective 1, DDP students are also encouraged to attend GSU's formal Transfer Orientation to gain further perspective on GSU's resources, including CJY. There are components to Transfer Orientation that are not possible at DDP Induction due to time constraints and limited staff; therefore, it is beneficial for all DDP students to attend Orientation during their last semester at the community college (or during summer for fall transfers.)</p>