CFYE Library Project

Thank you for volunteering to speak with new students and hear about their experiences. This pilot project is designed to gather information about new students and their transition to UW-Madison; as an incentive to participate, students will earn an iTunes gift card.

Procedure:

1. Arrive at College Library prior to the 8:00 PM start time. You will set-up in the large, glassed-in space on the first floor designated for CFYE (look for signage).
2. There will be a large white-board covered with a poster identifying the project. You should stand next to this while enticing students to come speak with you.
3. We are not looking for exact notes, but the “essence” of what students share with you. We are looking for aggregate themes on the first semester at UW.
4. Introduce yourself, your role with the office, and the purpose of this project: to gather information to inform CFYE’s work.
5. Please assure all students that this information will remain anonymous and is being used solely to inform the CFYE for future initiatives.

Possible Questions:

- Tell me about your background and what brought you to UW-Madison.
- What did you expect college to be like this first semester?
- How has your college experience gone so far this year? To what extent does it match your expectations?
- What has surprised you most about your college experience so far?
- Tell me about some of the challenges you’ve faced so far. How did you approach them?
- What kind of support systems do you have? What role have they played thus far in your UW experience?
- Have you had to face any difficult decisions?
  - Follow-up: What was that like? How did you handle it?
- College is often a time of exposure to multiple perspectives—encountering people who grew up differently than you, people who hold different beliefs than you, encountering new ideas in classes, etc. Have you encountered new perspectives? Tell me about them. Follow-up: How did that experience affect the way you see things?
- Are there aspects of college that you find stressful? If so, tell me about them. Follow-up: what are the common threads of the aspects you find stressful?
- Tell me about aspects of your college experience that have brought you the most joy or satisfaction. Why do you think this is the case?
- It sounds like you’ve had a variety of experiences thus far. How do you think coming to college here has affected who you are and the way you see yourself? Has it affected the way you see your academic goals?
- How do you think your college experience here has affected your beliefs or values?
- Tell me about what you’ve learned about relating to other people from your college experience.
- In what ways do you see yourself as the same as when you began college? In what ways do you see yourself as different than when you began college?