Student Affairs

Great Dane Welcome Report

Fall 2015
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Great Dane Welcome Overview:

This past fall the Division of Student Affairs in conjunction with campus partners hosted the first Great Dane Welcome for new and returning students. The Great Dane Welcome Experience is designated as the "official" period to welcome UAlbany's new and returning students to campus each fall semester and to the UAlbany Family. This experience should provide new and returning students with various programming and information to assist them in making UAlbany their home away from home. Students should have the opportunity to get to know each other and the campus and become comfortable with the routine of campus life.

The Great Dane Welcome, spanning the first 6 weeks of the semester, consisted of 7 Cornerstone Events, 31 Impact Programs, and 26 Welcome Back programs. Cornerstone Events were designed to welcome all students and are existing or new campus traditions, while Impact Programs were planned by specific campus departments and were designed to help introduce students to different resources on-campus. Planning for Great Dane Welcome started in the January of 2015 with the Welcome Week Steering Committee, later becoming the Student Experience Steering Committee.

Steering Committee Overview:

The Student Experience Steering Committee first commenced in Spring 2015. Originally the Welcome Week Steering Committee, the group was comprised of representatives across the Division of Student Affairs as well as Athletics, Academic Affairs, Communications & Marketing, University Auxiliary Services, Sodexo, and the Student Association. The charge of the committee was to collaborate across units and Divisions, efficiently utilize resources and plan a comprehensive, intentional 6-week welcome experience for new and returning students, known as the Great Dane Welcome. By the end of the 6-week welcome experience, the committee hoped students would have the opportunity to learn how to get engaged on campus, meet their peers, become comfortable with the routine of campus life, and be introduced to the divisions four learning domains: Experiential Learning, Diversity and Inclusion, Health and Resilience, and Public Engagement.
Welcome Back Events include those sponsored by New Student Programs, UAlbany Programming Board, Residential Life, and Student Engagement and did not fit into the other two categories.

**Great Dane Welcome Attendance**

- **29,020**
  Total attendance of all 64 events.
- **9,294**
  Number of students reached through passive programming.

Total attendance includes students that attended more than one event.
Passive Programs include: Welcome Tents, Bus Safety Program, Damien Stroll, Upper Madison Street Fair, and New Tune Tuesdays.
GREAT DANE WELCOME

90% of students reported feeling part of the community as a result of attending the program.

*Data reported in the aggregate, N= 2,030

STUDENT LEARNING

87%
After attending Great DANetopia, 87% of students could identify one resource that would help them get involved.

81%
During Equalogy sponsored by the Advocacy Center for Sexual Violence, students learned the definition of consent and 81% of students could identify where the center is located.

During the Green Your Space event sponsored by Environmental Sustainability, students learned action steps to reduce energy use on campus and could identify students organizations with a mission to increase sustainability awareness.

97%
After attending Explore UAlbany, respondents correctly identified one tip or resource they can use to succeed in a UAlbany class.
NEW STUDENT ORIENTATION

Great Dane Welcome Report

New Student Orientation is designed to help students transition to the social, cultural, and academic environment at the University at Albany. At Orientation, students have the opportunity to connect with new and continuing students, faculty and staff, and a wide array of resources to support their collegiate journey.

In 2015, significant changes were made to the Freshman Orientation program to create a more individualized experience for students. All freshman students participated in interactive sessions on healthy and responsible behaviors, diversity and inclusion, and career readiness in small classrooms with 35 peers. Students were also able to meet with their advisor in small groups of 4-7 students without missing other aspects of the program. These changes were met with great success and New Student Programs plans to use the feedback to continuously improve the program. For instance, students will have more opportunities next year to interact with students from other groups and they will receive more communication about the length and structure of the program.

In 2016, New Student Programs intends to build on the success of the reimagined Freshman Orientation program by transforming the orientation experience for new transfer students. We know that transfer students are a diverse population with varying needs. Therefore, we will strive to create a two-part program that provides transfer students with the academic supports they are seeking and the ability to choose the information sessions that meet their needs and goals. Transfer students will be welcomed to the university as a cohort and provided with a supportive environment to help them achieve success.
NEW STUDENT ORIENTATION
FRESHMAN ORIENTATION

Freshman Orientation Attendance:

🔥🔥🔥🔥🔥🔥 🔥 2,294

Student Satisfaction:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>2015</th>
<th></th>
<th>2014</th>
<th></th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Felt Welcome at Orientation</td>
<td>94%</td>
<td>93%</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Questions were answered</td>
<td>89%</td>
<td>89%</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Experience was positive</td>
<td>90%</td>
<td>88%</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

What did you like most about Orientation?

What would have made your experience better?
NEW STUDENT ORIENTATION
FAMILY ORIENTATION

Family Orientation Attendance:

😊 1,569
Freshman Family Members attended Orientation

😊 406
Transfer Family Members attended Orientation

Family Attendee Satisfaction:

😊😊😊😊😊😊😊 89% of UAlbany family members agree that the Family Orientation program contributed to their satisfaction with their student’s choice of UAlbany.

👍 70%
of Freshman Family Members agree that the Family Reception positively impacted their view of UAlbany.
NEW STUDENT ORIENTATION
TRANSFER ORIENTATION

Transfer Orientation Attendance

(Student Satisfaction:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Year</th>
<th>Felt Welcome at Orientation</th>
<th>Questions were answered</th>
<th>Experience was positive</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>2015</td>
<td>96%</td>
<td>88%</td>
<td>90%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2014</td>
<td>90%</td>
<td>83%</td>
<td>84%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

What did you like most about Orientation?

What would have made your experience better?

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Feeling Welcomed</th>
<th>Advisor</th>
<th>Orientation</th>
<th>Assistant</th>
<th>Program Organization</th>
<th>Resource Fair</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>31%</td>
<td>25%</td>
<td>14%</td>
<td>11%</td>
<td>9%</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Better Advisor</th>
<th>Program</th>
<th>Ice Breakers</th>
<th>Meals for Parents</th>
<th>Better Organization</th>
<th>More Campus Tours</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>24%</td>
<td>13%</td>
<td>8%</td>
<td>8%</td>
<td>8%</td>
<td>8%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
CORNERSTONE EVENTS

Great Dane Welcome Report

The Great Dane Welcome Cornerstone Events serve as our welcoming traditions at the University at Albany. Not only do they welcome students onto campus, but these events also introduce students to the various ways to get engaged as well as the numerous resources that are available. This year, 14,577 students attended the Cornerstone Events. The following information breaks down attendance and demographic information as well as the student satisfaction and learning of each event.

**Great Dane Welcome Cornerstone Events:**
1. Opening Convocation
2. Great Dane Game Day Preview
3. Welcome Candlelighting Ceremony
4. Explore UAlbany
5. Great DANEtopia
6. Dane-a-thon Kick-Off
7. Be a Great Dane Day
This fall, the President’s Office organized the first Opening Convocation for all freshman students. University Events worked in conjunction with departments around the university to ensure a successful event. Residential Life and New Student Programs worked closely with University Events to ensure that students were in attendance. The event included an address from President Jones and student Vanessa Salamy. At the end of the Convocation, students had a Class of 2019 picture taken on Bob Ford Field at Tom & Mary Casey Stadium.

**Attendance & Demographics:**

<p>| | |</p>
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th></th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>🧑‍🎓 2,500</td>
<td>freshman students in attendance</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>🇺🇸 161</td>
<td>Number of international students in attendance</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>⭐️ 215</td>
<td>E.O.P. students in attendance</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

---

**Diagram:**

- Latino
- White
- Black
- Asian
- Pacific Islander
- American Indian
- Did Not Specify
Suggestions for the Future:

The Division of Student Affairs is looking forward to next year’s event. As a division, we will be looking to improve the timing of students’ arrival to the ceremony in order to limit the waiting time for students in SEFCU.

In addition, the Division of Student Affairs will ensure that more staff is outside to create a more robust human tunnel as students move from the SEFCU arena onto the football field for their picture.
GREAT DANE GAME DAY

Kicking off the series of Great Dane Game Day experiences, the Great Dane Game Day Preview gave students a taste of what to expect at the pregame celebrations before each home football game. Students received their DANEger Zone t-shirts, played games, enjoyed a BBQ and more.

Attendance and Demographics:

- 1,349 students in attendance
- $2.37 Student Affairs cost per student
- 69% freshman attendees
- 8% attendees in the E.O.P program
- 50% male attendance
- 50% female attendance
GREAT DANE GAME DAY

Game Day Survey Results:

96.3% Recommend to other Students
92.6% Felt more connected to UAlbany

How did you hear about the event?

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>How did you hear about the event?</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>myinvolvement</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Friend</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>8%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Email</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Suggestions for the future:

Based on student feedback, the planning committee may want to look into more shaded or tented areas, especially during warmer game days. In addition, students suggested having live performances and having food available for a longer period of time.
The Welcome Candlelighting ceremony is steeped in tradition, as it has been the opening ceremony for first year students for over 50 years. However, this year’s event was quite different. Instead of its normal location, the ceremony took place in the main fountain area with a stage fitted around the middle fountain. In addition, students were given battery-operated UAlbany votive candles. Lastly, this year UAlbany invited UAlbany alumna, Janelle Bechdol, to speak. One element which did stay the same was a fantastic fireworks display at the end.

Attendance & Demographics:

- 2,200 new students in attendance this year
- 200 transfer students in attendance
- $6.93 cost per student
- 185 E.O.P. students in attendance
WELCOME CANDLELIGHTING CEREMONY

Ceremony Survey Results:

👍 81%
Were very satisfied with the overall Candlelighting Ceremony Event.

😊 93%
Were very satisfied with the location at the event.

 ++) 74%
Were very satisfied with the speakers at the event.

🌍 76%
Feel more connected to the UAlbany community after attending the event.

👍 88%
Would recommend this program to other students.

😊 679
Respondents
EXPLORE UALBANY

Explore UAlbany marks the beginning of the UAlbany academic journey for new freshman students. Students are given the opportunity to explore a topic of interest while connecting with UAlbany’s most outstanding faculty. UAlbany faculty share exciting research in a variety of different areas and provide students with tips and resources to succeed in their first semester.

Attendance and Demographics:

1,328
students in attendance

7%
E.O.P. students in attendance

$2.25
cost per student

6%
of students in attendance were from another country

[Diagram showing breakdown of student demographics]
EXPLORE UALBANY

Explore UAlbany Survey Results:

- 83.1%
  Would recommend this program to other students.

- 97%
  After attending Explore UAlbany, respondents correctly identified one tip or resource they can use to succeed in a UAlbany class.

- 86.3%
  Feel connected to the UAlbany community because of attending this program.

How did you hear about the event?

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Source</th>
<th>Percentage</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>UAlbany Go</td>
<td>15.70%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>UAlbany App</td>
<td>5.48%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>My Involvement</td>
<td>16.44%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Resident Assistant</td>
<td>72.23%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Email</td>
<td>30.14%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Orientation Assistant</td>
<td>36.99%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Twitter</td>
<td>4.11%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Facebook</td>
<td>9.59%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Friend</td>
<td>77.81%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Flyer</td>
<td>28.77%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Suggestions for the future:

Based on the data from the Explore UAlbany survey, there are plans to improve communication to students about the structure of the program and to develop a new assessment method to increase the response rate and gain more feedback. Other areas under consideration are changing the options provided to students and fostering more interaction.
The UAlbany Programming Board, Pathways to Success program, and Campus Recreation teamed up to host the second annual Great DANEtopia. This year’s event included a Resource Fair with over 50 departments and programs in attendance, free food, live music, inflatables, and many free give-a-ways. This event was a great way to kick-off the semester.

**Great DANEtopia**

The UAlbany Programming Board, Pathways to Success program, and Campus Recreation teamed up to host the second annual Great DANEtopia. This year’s event included a Resource Fair with over 50 departments and programs in attendance, free food, live music, inflatables, and many free give-a-ways. This event was a great way to kick-off the semester.

**Attendance & Demographics:**

- **4,000**
  Number of attendees

- **$3.74**
  Cost per student

- **16%**
  Transfer students in attendance

- **8%**
  E.O.P students in attendance

**Chart:**

- Latino 46%
- Black 25%
- White 17%
- Asian 14%
- American Indian 16%

**Eastern Regional Area:**

- 30% Male
- 70% Female
GREAT DANEtopia

Great DANEtopia Survey Results:

100%
Would recommend this program to other students.

153
Comments for improvement: Bring a DJ for entertainment, have the event spread out more.

99.50%
Feel connected to the UAlbany community because of attending this program.

175
Identify one UAlbany resource that you learned about at this program: Club sports, Gender & Sexuality Resource Center, Advising Services

How did you hear about the event?

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Source</th>
<th>Percentage</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>UAlbany GO</td>
<td>12.38%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>UAlbany App</td>
<td>4.46%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>My Involvement</td>
<td>8.91%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Instagram</td>
<td>2.97%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Twitter</td>
<td>2.97%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Friend</td>
<td>34.65%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Facebook</td>
<td>2.48%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Resident Assistant</td>
<td>13.86%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Flyer</td>
<td>1.98%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Email</td>
<td>2.97%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Orientation Assistant</td>
<td>1.49%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
DANCE-A-THON KICK-OFF

The UAlbany Programming Board sponsored the kick off for this year's Children's Miracle Network Dance Marathon. Students enjoyed 18 holes of mini-golf while learning more about the Bernard and Millie Children's Hospital at Albany Medical Center. The goal of the event was to have 20 participants registered and $200 raised for the Dance-a-thon. The Marathon will be held on February 20, 2016. This event was created to raise awareness for the marathon and launch the fundraising efforts.

200
Students Attended

Suggestions for the Future

While there was a nice turnout for the kick-off event, the fundraising goal was not met. In the future the board will do more to focus on how to increase participants signing up to dance or donating to the cause.
BE A GREAT DANE DAY

The annual Student Association Block Party is an involvement fair for all recognized student organizations. This offers students the opportunity to explore what organizations are at UAlbany and to learn more about those which are of interest to them. The Block Party hosts 220 student organizations, offers free giveaways, and includes student group performances.

Approximately 3,000 Students Attended

Suggestions for the Future:

1. When choosing the date, contact SODEXO at the very beginning of the summer to see when they might be able to add a BBQ.
2. Release the performance list 2-3 days before the event. Do not release the order of performances because groups are very particular about when they want to perform and in what order.
3. Enforce with the DJ that all mixes need to be cleared for vulgarity.
4. Continue to partner with the Student Group Affairs department.
The University at Albany Welcome Experience Impact Programs complement the Cornerstone Events in welcoming UAlbany's new and returning students to campus fall semester. Overall, the purpose of the Impact Programs are to provide students with opportunities to meet new people, learn about campus life, and gain valuable information that will assist in a successful transition to the University at Albany. The Division of Student Affairs works collaboratively with departments to promote the development of the whole student by providing both targeted and general programming for all students.

Impact programs were implemented by individual units with their mission in mind and have been mapped to the Division of Student Affairs' four Learning Domains:

- Applied Learning
- Diversity & Inclusion
- Health and Resilience
- Public Engagement
## IMPACT PROGRAMS: At-A-Glance

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Impact Program</th>
<th>Purpose</th>
<th>Target Population</th>
<th>Attendance</th>
<th>Learning Domains</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>A Great Dane Welcome @Your Library</td>
<td>Provide information about University Libraries' services and resources.</td>
<td>All Students</td>
<td>500</td>
<td>Applied Learning</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Adirondack Hiking Trip</td>
<td>Provide students the opportunity to experience the Adirondack Mountains and the outdoors.</td>
<td>All Students</td>
<td>71</td>
<td>Health &amp; Resilience</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Anthony D’Alessandro Alumni Event</td>
<td>Connect current students with UAlbany alumnus and discuss how to best prepare for the current job market.</td>
<td>All Students</td>
<td>70</td>
<td>Applied Learning</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Apple Picking</td>
<td>Social program to provide students the opportunity to enjoy the Capital Region.</td>
<td>All Students</td>
<td>150</td>
<td>-</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Bus Safety Program</td>
<td>Distribute business cards with Off-Campus Safety tips on one side and taxi cab numbers on the other.</td>
<td>All Students</td>
<td>1,250</td>
<td>Public Engagement</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Career Fair</td>
<td>Provide students with an opportunity to network with employers for future internship and employment opportunities.</td>
<td>All Students</td>
<td>974</td>
<td>Applied Learning</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Community College Luncheon</td>
<td>Meet and greet opportunity for transfer students who have come from local community colleges.</td>
<td>Transfer Students</td>
<td>21</td>
<td>-</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Community Service Event with Student Engagement Communities</td>
<td>Volunteer opportunity for students involved in Student Engagement Communities and to partner with the Regional Food Bank of Northeastern New York.</td>
<td>L-LC Students</td>
<td>280</td>
<td>Public Engagement</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Damien Stroll</td>
<td>Promote safety off-campus while allowing residents a chance to interact with UAlbany students in a positive atmosphere</td>
<td>Off-Campus Students</td>
<td>1,785</td>
<td>Public Engagement</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Equalogy</td>
<td>Promote Sexual assault prevention and awareness</td>
<td>All Students</td>
<td>150</td>
<td>Applied Learning, Public Engagement, Health &amp; Resilience</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Explore UAlbany II 8/28</td>
<td>Familiarize students with the Blackboard system, academic expectations, and resources that will help them inside and outside of the classroom.</td>
<td>All Students</td>
<td>154</td>
<td>Applied Learning</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
# IMPACT PROGRAMS: At-A-Glance

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Impact Program</th>
<th>Purpose</th>
<th>Target Population</th>
<th>Attendance</th>
<th>Learning Domains</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Explore UAlbany Part II - 9/18</td>
<td>Promote safe sex and healthy relationships to students.</td>
<td>All Students</td>
<td>21</td>
<td>Applied Learning, Health &amp; Resilience</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>First Night Fest</td>
<td>Provide entertainment and activities for students on their first night on campus.</td>
<td>Freshman Students</td>
<td>1200</td>
<td>--</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Flight Trampoline Trip</td>
<td>Provide an off-campus program for students by going to the Flight Trampoline Park.</td>
<td>All Students</td>
<td>102</td>
<td>Health &amp; Resilience</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Good Sam Swing Softball Tournament</td>
<td>Raise awareness and promote the Good Samaritan Policy.</td>
<td>All Students</td>
<td>7</td>
<td>Public Engagement</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Great Dane Game Day 9/12</td>
<td>To bring the UAlbany community together before the home football game for free food, give-a-ways, and activities.</td>
<td>All Students</td>
<td>456</td>
<td>-</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Great Dane Game Day 9/26</td>
<td>To bring the UAlbany community together before the home football game for free food, give-a-ways, and activities.</td>
<td>All Students</td>
<td>566</td>
<td>-</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Green Your Space</td>
<td>Educational opportunity for students to learn how to make their living area more sustainable.</td>
<td>All Students</td>
<td>50</td>
<td>Applied Learning, Public Engagement</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Leave Hate Behind</td>
<td>Bullying prevention and awareness event sponsored by CHARGE Peer Educators.</td>
<td>All Students</td>
<td>50</td>
<td>Applied Learning, Diversity &amp; Inclusion, Public Engagement</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Lifehack EXPO</td>
<td>Promote effective ways to manage stressors.</td>
<td>All Students</td>
<td>104</td>
<td>Applied Learning, Health &amp; Resilience</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Meet, Munch &amp; More</td>
<td>Provide opportunities for students living off campus to network and engage with community stakeholders</td>
<td>Off-Campus Students</td>
<td>500</td>
<td>Applied Learning, Public Engagement</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Mentally Driven: An Evening with Chamique Holdsclaw</td>
<td>Suicide prevention and awareness</td>
<td>All Students</td>
<td>100</td>
<td>Applied Learning, Health &amp; Resilience</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
# IMPACT PROGRAMS: At-A-Glance

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
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</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Mid-Term Fair</td>
<td>Introduce Alumni Quad students to academic support resources UAlbany offers to ensure they were successful with their midterms.</td>
<td>Transfer Students</td>
<td>50</td>
<td>Applied Learning</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Minute to Win It</td>
<td>Promote UAlbany Sustainability Collaborative.</td>
<td>All Students</td>
<td>63</td>
<td>Applied Learning, Public Engagement</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Neighborhood Engagement Walk</td>
<td>Promote neighborhood engagement</td>
<td>Off-Campus Students</td>
<td>300</td>
<td>Public Engagement</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Pathways to Success</td>
<td>Promote Pathways to Success and the importance of the Involvement Record to first-year students.</td>
<td>Freshman &amp; Transfer Students</td>
<td>1200</td>
<td>Applied Learning</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Podium Pandemonium</td>
<td>Inspire and foster UAlbany pride</td>
<td>Freshman Students</td>
<td>1500</td>
<td>--</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Therapy Dogs</td>
<td>Reduce stress, promote relaxation, and raise money for Disabled Students Scholarship Program.</td>
<td>All Students</td>
<td>250</td>
<td>Health &amp; Resilience</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Upper Madison Street Fair</td>
<td>Promote community pride and unity by inviting local vendors, artists, craftsmen, and community resources to come together and display/sell their items.</td>
<td>Off-Campus Students</td>
<td>1,500</td>
<td>Public Engagement</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Welcome Back Sugar Attack</td>
<td>Promote community pride and unity by inviting students and their neighbors for an ice cream social.</td>
<td>Off-Campus Students</td>
<td>413</td>
<td>Public Engagement</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Welcome Receptions</td>
<td>Opportunity for students to meet other LGBTQ and Allied students and student clubs</td>
<td>LGBTQ and Allied students</td>
<td>40</td>
<td>Applied Learning, Diversity &amp; Inclusion</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Welcome Receptions</td>
<td>Opportunity for students to meet other ALANA and Allied students and student clubs</td>
<td>ALANA and Allied students</td>
<td>50</td>
<td>Applied Learning, Diversity &amp; Inclusion</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Welcome Tents</td>
<td>Provide students with assistance in their first week of classes.</td>
<td>Commuter students</td>
<td>3,959</td>
<td>Applied Learning</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
IMPACT PROGRAMS: SUMMARY

Attendance & Demographics

16,687
Students attended impact programs

97.85%
Students would recommend the event they attended to other students

$90.57%
Cost per student

Range of $0.07 to $22.47 per student with a weighted average of $2.39 per student

How did you hear about the event?

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Source</th>
<th>UAlbany Go</th>
<th>Twitter</th>
<th>Friend</th>
<th>Flyer</th>
<th>Email</th>
<th>Orientation Assistant</th>
<th>Other</th>
<th>Off-Campus Ambassador</th>
<th>NA</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Percentage</td>
<td>5%</td>
<td>3%</td>
<td>32%</td>
<td>4%</td>
<td>3%</td>
<td>5%</td>
<td>5%</td>
<td>3%</td>
<td>11%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

FRESHMAN EXPERIENCE

4,440
Students attended impact programs targeted to freshman students

97.87%
Students would recommend these programs to other students
# FRESHMAN EXPERIENCE

## Attendance & Survey Results:

![Cost per student](Image)

- Podium Pandemonium ($3.33)
- First Night Fest ($4.46)
- Equalogy ($22.47)

![Students feel connected](Image)

Students feel connected to the UAlbany community as a result of attending these programs.

---

## How did you hear about the event?

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>How did you hear about the event?</th>
<th>N/A</th>
<th>Flyer</th>
<th>Email</th>
<th>UAlbany GO</th>
<th>UAlbany App</th>
<th>My Involvement</th>
<th>TTL</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Resident Assistant</td>
<td>28%</td>
<td>11%</td>
<td>6%</td>
<td>5%</td>
<td>2%</td>
<td>3%</td>
<td>1%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Friend</td>
<td>23%</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Orientation Assistant</td>
<td>9%</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Social Media</td>
<td>7%</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>My Involvement</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>3%</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Total</td>
<td>100%</td>
<td>11%</td>
<td>6%</td>
<td>5%</td>
<td>2%</td>
<td>3%</td>
<td>1%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
OFF-CAMPUS EXPERIENCE

The following programs were included in the Off-Campus Impact Program Experience report.

1. Meet, Munch and More
2. Bus Safety Program
3. Damien Stroll
4. Welcome Back Sugar Attack
5. Neighborhood Engagement Walk
6. Upper Madison Street Fair

Attendance & Survey Results:

- **5,748**
  - Students attended impact programs targeted to off-campus students
- **100%**
  - Students would recommend the Meet, Munch and More event to other students
- **$**
  - **98.46%**
  - Students feel connected to the UAlbany community as a result of attending the Meet, Munch and More event

How did you hear about the event?

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Source</th>
<th>Percentage</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Friend</td>
<td>34%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Off-Campus Ambassador</td>
<td>29%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Resident Assistant</td>
<td>10%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Flyer</td>
<td>4%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Email</td>
<td>2%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>UAlbany GO</td>
<td>2%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Transition Leader</td>
<td>2%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>N/A</td>
<td>3%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Social Media</td>
<td>4%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>My Involvement</td>
<td>11%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>UAlbany GO</td>
<td>2%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Email</td>
<td>2%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Transition Leader</td>
<td>2%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>N/A</td>
<td>3%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Social Media</td>
<td>4%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>My Involvement</td>
<td>11%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
The Office of Student Engagement developed a peer educator program in the Fall of 2014 called the Transfer Transition Leader (TTL) program. The purpose of the Transfer Transition Leaders is to provide programs and services that assist transfer students both socially and academically in their transition to UAlbany. TTLs implemented several programs specifically for transfer students in the Transfer/Commuter lounge and on Alumni Quad (where about 400 new transfers are housed each year). A few of these programs were Impact Programs designed for all new transfers to attend as a part of our welcome experience.

The first kick-off program was a new transfer/commuter barbeque. A UAS grant of $775 was awarded so commuters who do not have meal plans could be invited to participate in the event.

### TRANSFER/COMMUTER BBQ

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Number of Students</th>
<th>Percentage</th>
<th>Comments</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Approximately 400</td>
<td>88.89%</td>
<td>Said they met someone new</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>82%</td>
<td>Said they would attend this event again</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>7 Suggestions</td>
<td>Better food, more food choices, more upperclassmen there to answer questions</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
MEET AND MINGLES
The TTLs hosted two “Meet and Mingle” events on the first two days of classes where students could come to the Transfer/Commuter Lounge to meet other new students and get any questions they had answered by a TTL or the Transfer Experience Coordinator.

- **30**
  15 attendees per day

- **23**
  Said they met someone new

- **$3.75 per student**

MIDTERM FAIR
The TTLs hosted a Midterm Fair on Alumni Quad which brought resources to the downtown quad. This program helped students become familiar with the great amount of academic support UAlbany offers to ensure they were successful with their midterms.

- **96%**
  Would recommend to other students

- **83%**
  Will use these resources again

- **73%**
  Agreed the program prepared them for midterms
IMPACT PROGRAMS: Data Collection

We were able to collect data on the majority of the 26 Impact Programs this fall. This section indicates the data collected for each program.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Attend</th>
<th>Hear</th>
<th>Rec</th>
<th>Connect</th>
<th>Cost</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Podium Pandemonium</td>
<td>●</td>
<td>●</td>
<td>●</td>
<td>●</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>First Night Fest</td>
<td>●</td>
<td>●</td>
<td>●</td>
<td>●</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>LGBTQ/Allied Reception</td>
<td>●</td>
<td>●</td>
<td>●</td>
<td>●</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>ALANA/Allied Reception</td>
<td>●</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Welcome Tents</td>
<td>●</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Minute to Win It</td>
<td>●</td>
<td>●</td>
<td>●</td>
<td>●</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Equalogy</td>
<td>●</td>
<td>●</td>
<td>●</td>
<td>●</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Good Sam Swing Softball</td>
<td>●</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Green Your Space</td>
<td>●</td>
<td>●</td>
<td>●</td>
<td>●</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Meet, Munch and More</td>
<td>●</td>
<td>●</td>
<td>●</td>
<td>●</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Bus Safety Program</td>
<td>●</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Damien Stroll</td>
<td>●</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Welcome Back, Sugar Attack</td>
<td>●</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Neighborhood Engagement Walk</td>
<td>●</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Upper Madison Street Fair</td>
<td>●</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Therapy Dogs</td>
<td></td>
<td>●</td>
<td>●</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Great Dane Game Day 9/12</td>
<td>●</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Great Dane Game Day 9/26</td>
<td>●</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Lifehack EXPO</td>
<td>●</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Career Fair</td>
<td>●</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Anthony D'Alessandro</td>
<td>●</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Apple Picking</td>
<td>●</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Pathways to Success</td>
<td>●</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Mentally Driven: Chamique Holdsclaw</td>
<td>●</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Great Dane Game Day Preview</td>
<td></td>
<td>●</td>
<td>●</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
The Programming Board continued the tradition of welcoming the incoming class as well as returning students with programming from August 20 to September 7. The Programming Board offered 12 events including an off-campus bus trip to the ValleyCats Game. Approximately 9,740 students participated in the various free events. The total cost of the Welcome Experience was $41,500 - averaging $4.26/student. Below is a more detailed breakdown of events and attendance.

*Note: The percentage of student attendance for the first three events is calculated using a freshman student population of 2,400.*
UALBANY PROGRAMMING BOARD

Student Participation

82% of UAlbany students participated in Programming Board activities during the Welcome Experience.

9,740 Students

Participated in various free events.

- GreatDANEtopia (4,000)
- Podium Pandemonium (1,500)
- First Night Fest (1,200)
- Hypnotist (600)
- Joel Meyers (500)
- Podium Series: Street signs (400)
- Podium Series: Sustainability (400)
- Screen on the Green: Avengers (300)
- Dane-A-Thon: Minigolf (250)
- Drive-In Movie: Jurassic World (150)
- ValleyCats v Brooklyn Cyclones (40)
UALBANY PROGRAMMING BOARD

Cost Per Student:

1. Welcome Experience was $41,500
2. Averaging $4.26/student

Student Satisfaction:

93.3%
Students indicated that they would recommend the programs to other students

87.85%
Felt more connected to UAlbany by attending Programming Board events
Student Satisfaction:

- Best Experience of my life!
- I would not change a thing!
- Completely Awesome!
- It's Perfect!

How did you hear about the program?

- Instagram & Twitter: 14.1%
- Flyer: 14.1%
- MyInvolvement.org: 18.2%
- Other: 1.9%
- UAlbany Go: 13.3%
- Facebook: 16.0%
- Orientation Assistant: 13.7%
- Friend: 20.6%
- Resident Assistant: 45.1%
During the Fall of 2015, the Division of Student Affairs surveyed new students in order to capture the first-year experience within the first six weeks of the semester. The survey was sent out to 4,000 freshman and transfer students and was completed by 855 students.

Most of the questions were on a 5-point satisfaction scale and covered topics such as: Academic Support, Financial Support, Student Wellness, Diversity & Inclusion, Student Engagement, On-Campus Living Experience, and Commuter & Off-Campus Experiences. In addition, the first six questions on the survey were also asked of freshman students during summer Orientation. Responses on this survey were benchmarked with those in the Orientation survey.

Students were advised before taking the survey that results were confidential but not anonymous so that Student Affairs staff could follow-up and create interventions for students who are having a difficult transition into college.

Results were shared with our colleagues in the Advisement Services Center, Counseling and Psychological Services, Residential Life, New Student Programs, Intercultural Student Engagement, and Neighborhood Life. In addition, data were reported in the aggregate to various committees on campus that tackle issues dealing with retention, student engagement, and applied learning.

Summary of Key Findings:

- Students reported feeling more excited about attending UAlbany and more like a member of the campus community during orientation than they did six weeks into the semester.

- Almost half of the respondents reported feeling nervous or stressed within the first six weeks of the semester.

- Students living on campus have had a positive experience in their first semester and, by living on campus, they feel more a part of the community.

- Commuter Students are less satisfied with their experience and feel less welcomed on campus than students who live on campus.
Baseline Questions

% who responded Strongly Agree or Agree
Orientation N=437, 6 Week N=855

% who responded strongly agree or agree
N=855
Academic Support

Overall my classes are going well
I know how to contact my academic advisor
I would go to my academic advisor for help
I interact regularly with my professor in class
I know how to contact my professor outside of the classroom if I have a question
I feel supported by my professor
I know about academic resources that are available on campus to help me succeed in class

% who responded Strongly Agree or Agree, N=689

Diversity and Inclusion

I feel I am treated fairly as a student on this campus
I have become more aware of diversity since starting college
University faculty and staff have demonstrated a commitment to creating a welcoming and inclusive environment for all people
UAlbany is supportive of students who identify as lesbian, gay, or bisexual
UAlbany is supportive of students who identify as transgender
UAlbany is supportive of students with diverse racial and ethnic backgrounds

% who responded Strongly Agree or Agree, N=689
Student Wellness

Since the beginning of the semester, how often have you felt...

% who responded Very Often or Often
N=745

Have you participated in any of the following to maintain or improve your physical health?

N=745
In your opinion, how involved have you been outside the classroom since the beginning of the semester?

% who responded Strongly Agree or Agree, N=689

% who responded somewhat involved- extremely involved, N=689
On-Campus Living Experience

% who responded Strongly Agree or Agree, Transfer N=101, Freshmen N=420

First Year Commuter Experience

% who responded Strongly Agree or Agree, N=43

Off-Campus Living Experience

Transfer students living off campus, N=125
The Student Experience Committee has already begun to plan Great Dane Welcome for Fall 2016. It will be important to use the data we have gathered to make changes that will enhance the student experience. Below are suggestions for the committee and the three sub-committees to consider when planning for next year.

Suggestions for the Future:

- Extend Impact Programs past the first six weeks in order to spread out programming more evenly throughout the entire semester.
- Invite transfer students to the Welcome Convocation Ceremony.
- Revisit how we market “free food” at events. Many students, especially those without a meal plan, reported that having to swipe for a meal is not the same as free food.
- The Assessment Committee should consider the following suggestions to improve the collection and reporting of data for next year:
  - Secure student staff to assist with administering Fast 5 surveys at events
  - Secure contact information for organizer of each event
  - Advise sponsoring department to develop survey in Baseline by specific date (earlier)
  - Create separate spreadsheet from logistics committee
  - Inform Student Affairs Assessment Council members at Assessment Camp to be available to assist event organizers in their units

*Suggestions for the Future are as of December 16, 2015. These suggestions will continue to expand as units analyze the data from their respective events.*