

Office of Advising, Retention & Orientation

April
2009

Volume 1
Issue 2

Important Dates:

- April 27-May 1: Finals Week
- May 2: Commencement
- May 11: 6- and 12 week summer courses begin.
- May 15: Transfer Student Orientation
- May 16: FTIC Orientation
- June 12: FTIC Orientation
- June 22: Second 6-week summer courses begin
- July 10: FTIC Orientation
- July 23: Transfer Student Orientation
- July 24: FTIC Orientation

Contact us:

Karen Johnston, Director
LBR 109
x2269
kjohnston@lssu.edu

Jody Thomas,
Administrative Assistant
LBR 107
x2874
jthomas1@lssu.edu

Orientation Programming 2009

Planning for the 2009 summer orientation programs is underway. This summer, there will be four FTIC and two transfer programs.

Students may register for a transfer orientation if they have 19 or more transfer credits and/or 21+ years of age. All other students must register for a FTIC program.

As of April 17, we have received 300 registrations (60 transfers and 240 freshman) for orientation.

The summer orientation dates are as follows:

FTIC Orientation

Saturday, May 16
Friday, June 12
Friday, July 10
Friday, July 24

Transfer Student Orientation

Friday, May 15
Thursday, July 23

As you talk with new students for the upcoming summer and fall semesters, please remind them to sign up for orientation.

Orientation is required for all new students attending main campus.

Be sure to join us for a casual dinner on Friday, May 15, as we welcome new students and their families to campus for orientation.

Spring Orientation Update

The spring semester program was also successful. This past spring, we had a 7.69% increase in registrations over the spring 2008 and a 47% increase over spring 2007.

Retention Initiative Survey

Last fall, the Retention Committee distributed a survey to campus departments to get a clear understanding of the numerous retention initiatives currently in place on campus. Responses were received from the following:

Advising, Retention & Orientation; Alumni; Biology; Business Operations; Chemistry/ Environmental Sciences; College of Health Professions; Criminal Justice/Fire Science/ EMS; Disability Services; Engineering & Technology; Financial Aid; Food Service; Housing & Residential Life; KJS Library, Learning Center; Liberal Arts/

Undecided; Public Relations; Public Safety; Registrar's Office/ Student Service Counter; and Social Sciences.

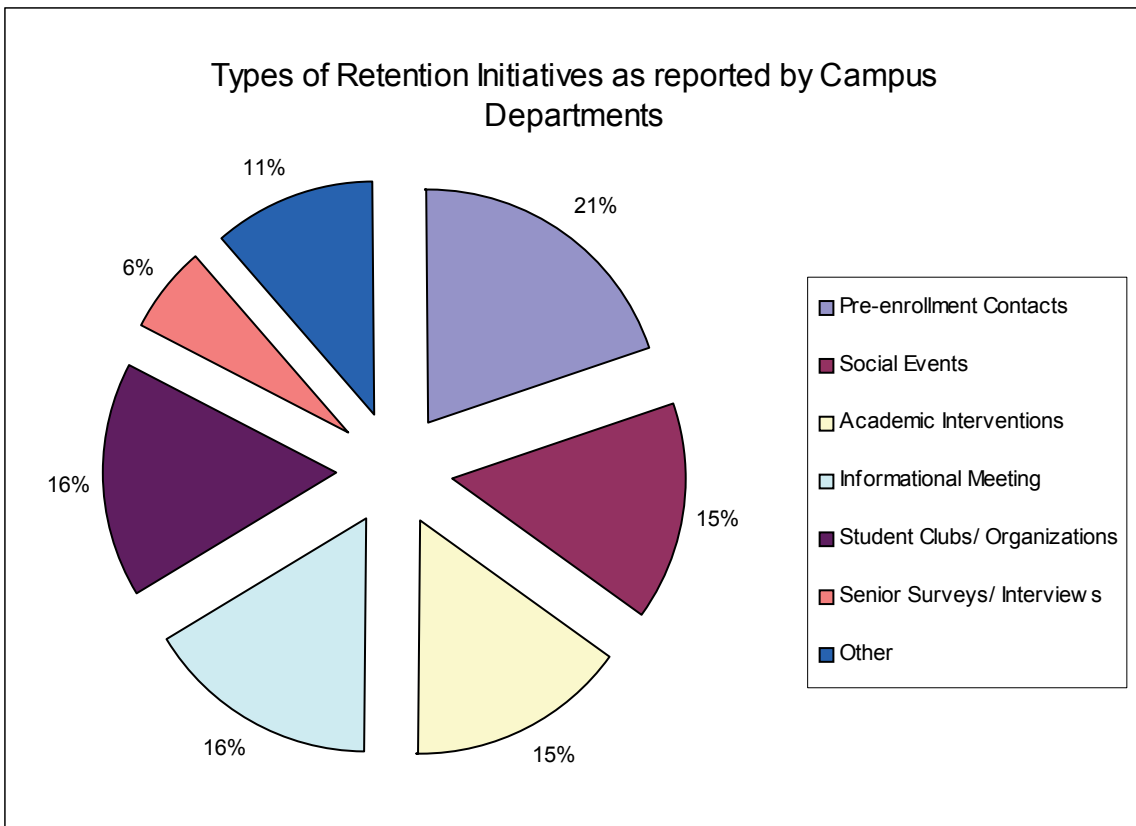
The survey contained seven categories: Pre-enrollment contacts, social events, academic interventions, informational meetings, student club/organizations, surveys/ interviews and other. The diagram and table on page 2 show the types of retention initiatives reported by departments and how successful the initiatives are rated by the departments.

While a wide range of activities were reported on the survey, ac-

tivities falling under the categories of pre-enrollment contacts and social events ranked highest as successful means for improving retention.

On behalf of the Retention Committee, thank you for taking the time to complete the retention initiative survey. The information received is helpful as we continue to look at ways to improve student retention here at LSSU.





Success Rates of Retention Initiatives as reported by Campus Departments

	Very	Average	Fair	Unsuccessful	Unknown
Pre-enrollment Contacts	56%	19%	0%	6%	19%
Social Events	50%	33%	0%	0%	17%
Academic Interventions	8%	33%	25%	0%	33%
Informational Meeting	23%	31%	38%	0%	8%
Student Clubs/ Organizations	23%	46%	0%	0%	31%
Senior Surveys/ Interviews	40%	0%	20%	0%	40%

Early Warning System

The Office of Advising, Retention and Orientation received 112 referrals spring semester through the Early Alert System. Your referrals and feedback help us assess the student situation and develop a plan of action. This plan of action may include the means by which we reach out to the student, the support services considered and the departments involved.

During the first two-weeks of the semester, two referrals were received for non-attendance. As we looked into the situation, we real-

ized both students were scheduled to receive substantial excess aid refunds on January 23.

The early referrals and timely feedback from faculty and staff allowed us to communicate the non-attendance issues to both Business Operations and Financial Aid, stopping the excess aid refund checks from disbursing. This timeliness also provided the opportunity to contact the students and discuss their options.

In the end, one student eventually received the excess aid refund

after proving they had started and were actively attending their classes. The other student never did attend spring classes and eventually withdrew from the university. By withdrawing, the student did not further jeopardize their academic standing and has the ability to return at a later date.

This is just an example of how important your referrals and feedback are to the whole early alert process. We thank you for your ongoing support of the Early Warning System.

Upcoming Conferences



Annual Conference: *Academic Advising: Deep in the Heart of Student Success*

September 30—October 3, 2009

San Antonio Convention Center & The Grand Hyatt San Antonio

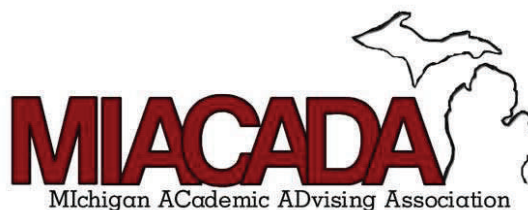
Early registration now available

Regional Conference: *3-2-1 Liftoff! Launching Your Students to Success!*

April 26—28, 2009

Purdue University

Registration now open, fees to increase after April 6.



2009 Annual Conference: *Advising at the Crossroads: Collaborating for the New Knowledge Economy*

Hosted at Lansing Community College—West Campus

Monday, May 11, 2009

Registration Deadline: April 24

Additional conference information and registration forms available online at www.lssu.edu/advising