BREAKOUT SESSION: ADVISING

Breakout Session Objectives

• Define the role of advisors in the STEM gateway curriculum and experience.
• Identify ways to improve communication between advisors, faculty, and students.
• Identify ways to integrate co-curricular activities in the STEM gateway experience.
• Identify strategies that increase student success and retention that advisors can implement across STEM disciplines.

Discussion Questions

A review of the survey results indicates that academic advisors would greatly benefit from knowing more about the Gateway curriculum and experience. There is also a need for more communication between faculty involved in teaching the STEM Gateway courses and academic advisors to ensure student success. The goal of this session is to have an open dialogue between faculty and advisors to share information about the Gateway experience, Gateway curriculum and learning outcomes, the role advisors can play in overall student success and ways to incorporate co-curricular activities to enhance the Gateway experience for students. In this session we will also discuss strategies that have worked to increase student success and retention and ways in which advisors can implement these strategies across the STEM discipline.

• What is the current role of advisors in the STEM Gateway?
  o How does this differ professional advisors and faculty advisors?
• What approaches can be used to improve communication between advisors and faculty who teach in the gateway curriculum?
• What new approaches should be implemented to integrate co-curricular activities?
• What existing and new approaches should be expanded and/or implemented to increase student success and retention?

Notes from Discussion

Talked about the necessity for faculty/advisor communication

• for advisors
  o would like resources about gateway courses, to know what they are and how they’re taught
  o might appreciate having gateway STEM syllabi online (via Alliance website)
  o want to know more about how the gateway courses interconnect (e.g. why must students take physics?) to be able to educate students on this
• for faculty
  o could be helpful for advisors to visit faculty meetings (or send email) to inform about services they offer students and faculty
  o can someone provide information/training for faculty who advise students, on best practices in advising?
  o provide a version of advisor’s manual tailored to the faculty's needs? [for faculty who do advising]
  o have faculty advisors meet a professional advisor in the dept/college to know they exist & how they can help
• for both
  o information about initiatives, pilot projects, etc. in STEM on the Alliance website so people know what is going on
  o syllabi online to know what’s being done in courses and/or get ideas to try in their own courses