Orientation Overhaul: Building a New Program
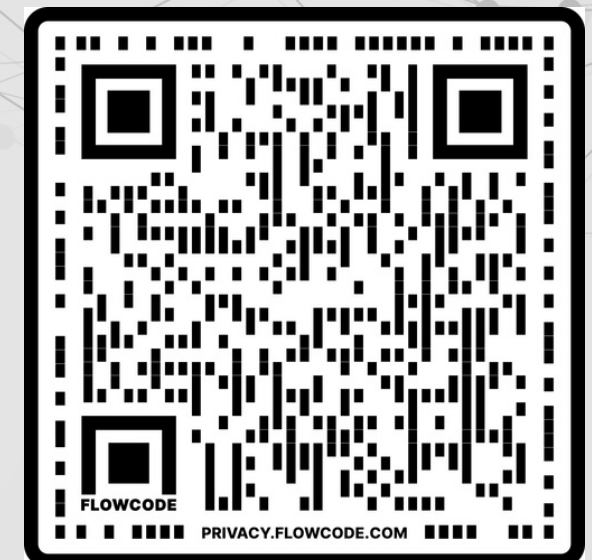
Thomas Arce, M.Ed.
Director,
Student Involvement &
Belonging

Zoé Smiley, M.A.
Coordinator,
New Student
Programs
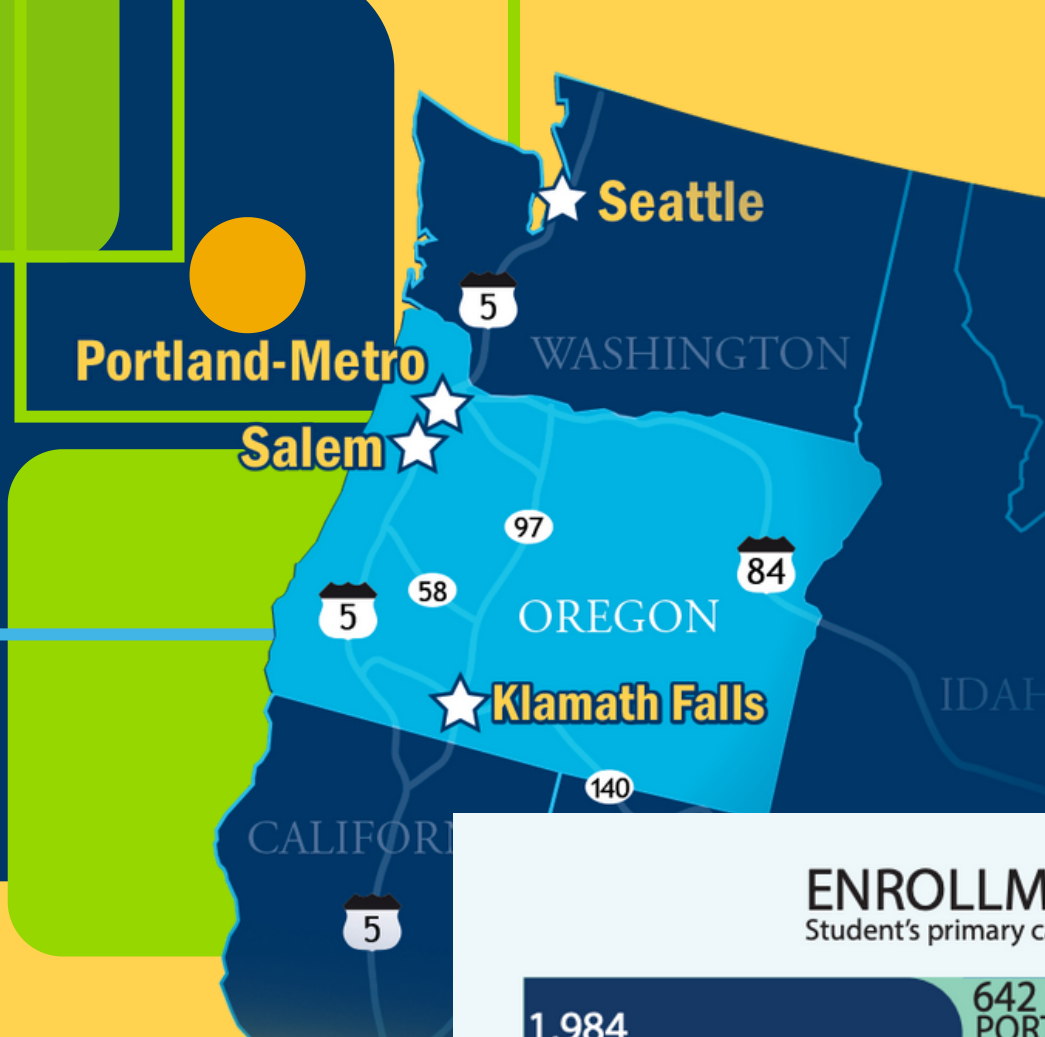
FOLLOW ALONG

Oregon TECH
Oregon Institute of Technology

SESSION AGENDA:

1. WHO IS OREGON TECH?

2. ORIENTATION PRIOR TO 2022

3. THE MISSING COMPETENCY

4. THEORETICAL FOUNDATION

5. SOAR STRATEGIC PLAN, IMPLEMENTATION AND ASSESSMENT

6. CONTINUING THE CHARGE AND HOW YOU CAN DO THE SAME
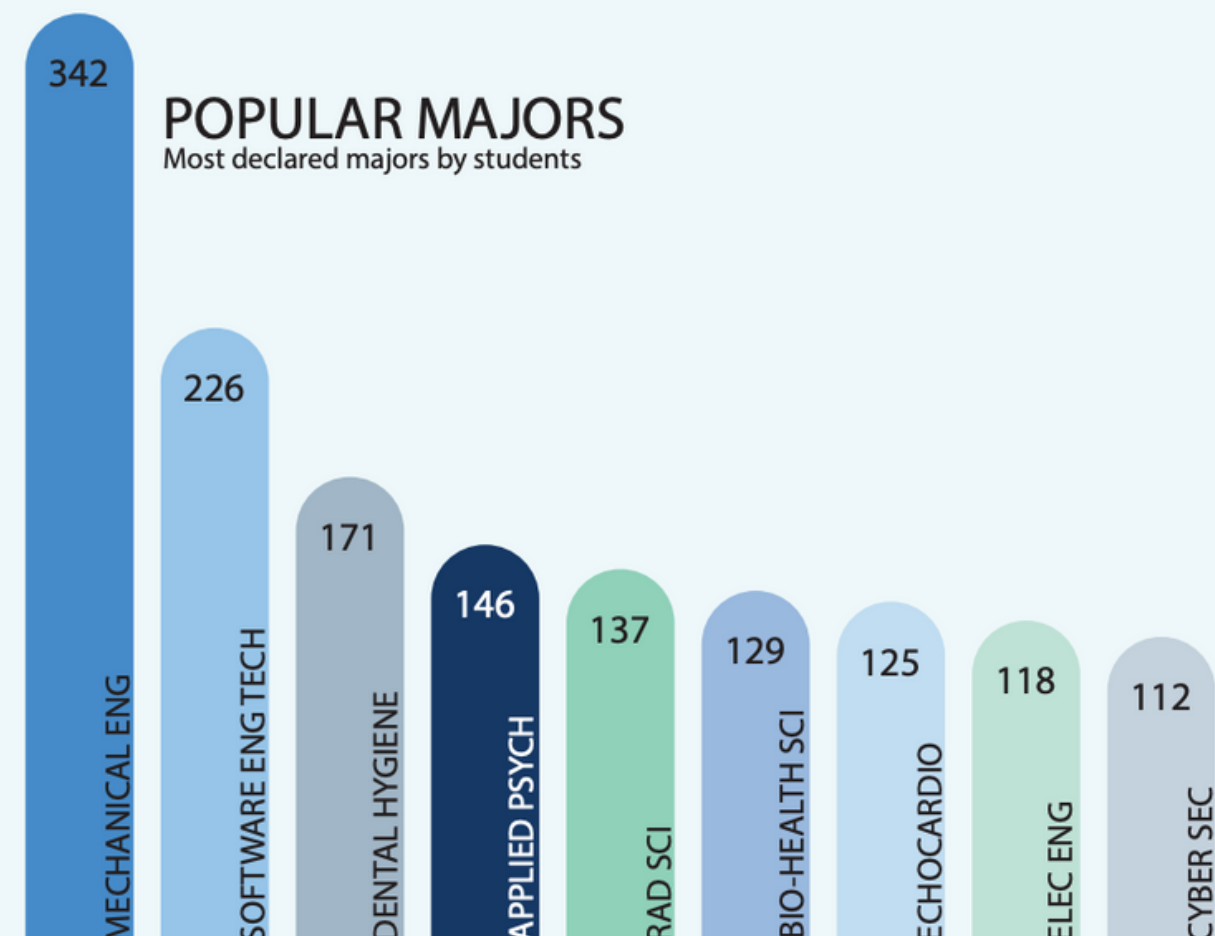
Oregon TECH
Oregon Institute of Technology

Seattle

Portland-Metro
Salem

WASHINGTON

OREGON

Klamath Falls

IDAHO

CALIFORNIA

ENROLLMENT BY CAMPUS
Student's primary campus

1,984 KLAMATH FALLS | **642** PORTLAND METRO | **1,724** ALL OTHER SITES | **563** ONLINE

POPULAR MAJORS
Most declared majors by students

Major	Count
MECHANICAL ENG	342
SOFTWARE ENG TECH	226
DENTAL HYGIENE	171
APPLIED PSYCH	146
RAD SCI	137
BIO-HEALTH SCI	129
ECHOCARDIO	125
ELEC ENG	118
CYBER SEC	112

DEGREES CONFERRED
from July 2021- June 2022

805

ETHNICITY

Ethnicity	Count	Percent
AFRICAN AMERICAN	122	2.5%
ASIAN	362	7.4%
HISPANIC	787	16.0%
INTERNATIONAL	64	1.3%
MULTI-ETHNIC	233	4.7%
NATIVE AMERICAN	60	1.2%
PACIFIC ISLANDER	24	0.5%
WHITE	3,173	64.6%
UNKNOWN	88	1.8%

Age Group	Count
50+	69
41–50	216
31–40	462
25–30	510
18–24	2174
≤17	1482
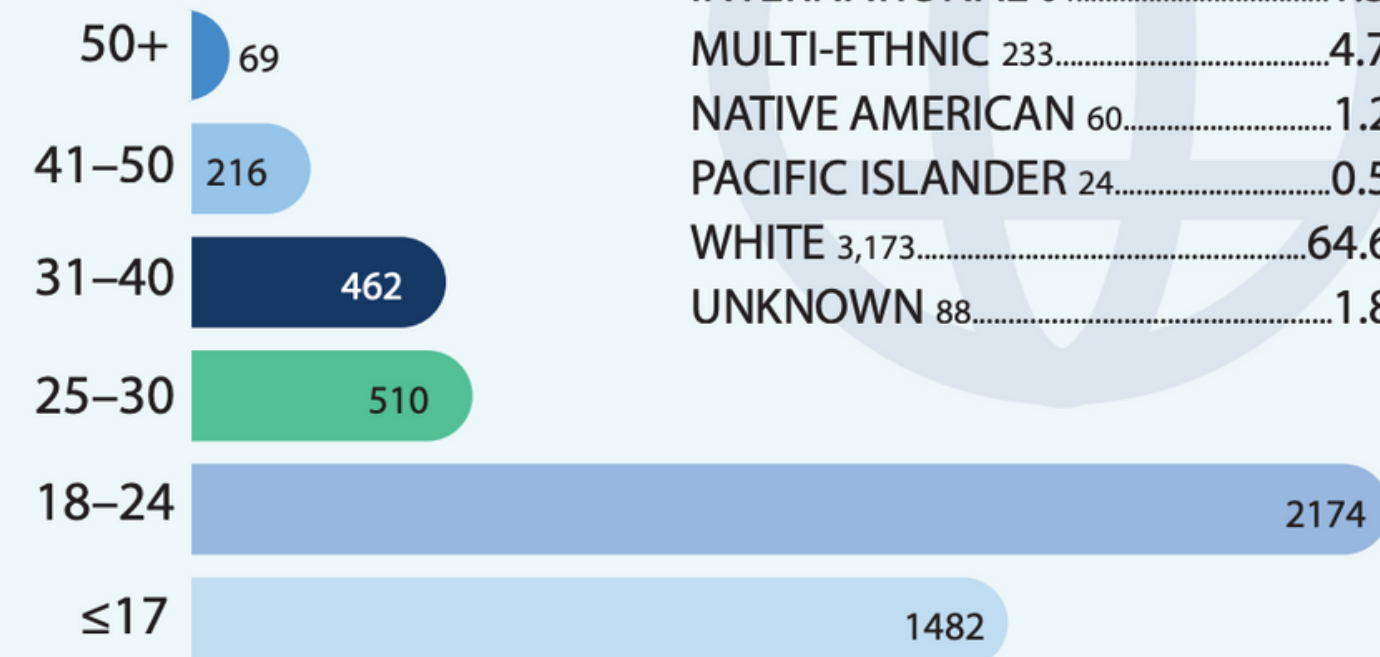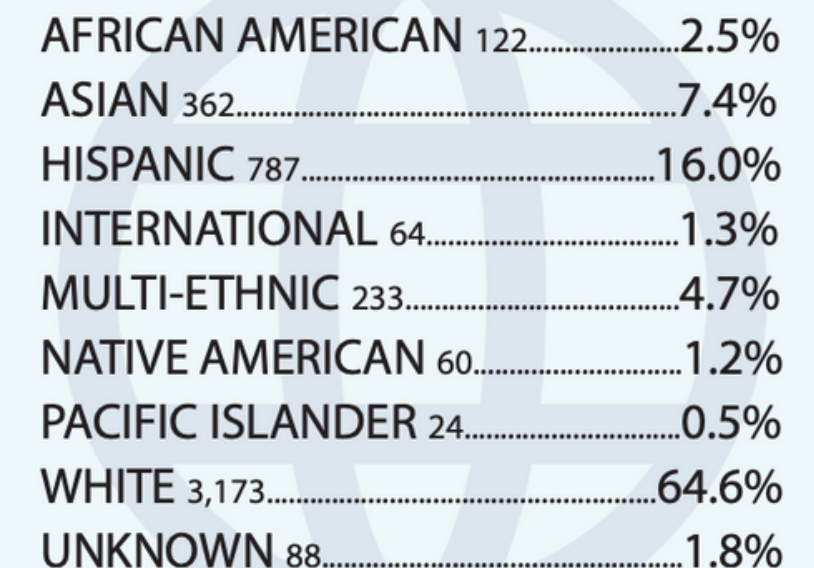
STUDENT DEMOGRAPHICS
By Age Group - Average Age: 23 yrs.

NEW STUDENT ORIENTATION 2021

SCHEDULE OF EVENTS

Sunday, September 26, 2021

10-11:15 AM	Parent Sessions
11:15-12:00 PM	The Art of College Parenting with David Coleman Parent Panel with Student Affairs Directors
10:30-11:30 AM	Student Welcome Session
11:30-12:45 PM	Details with the Dean & photo
1-1:30 PM	Lunch
1:30-3:30 PM	Building TECH Nation (Hooray) with David Coleman
3:30-4:30 PM	Student Affairs: Staff & Silliness
5-7:30 PM	Dinner
7-9 PM	Oregon Tech Gaming "Game Night"

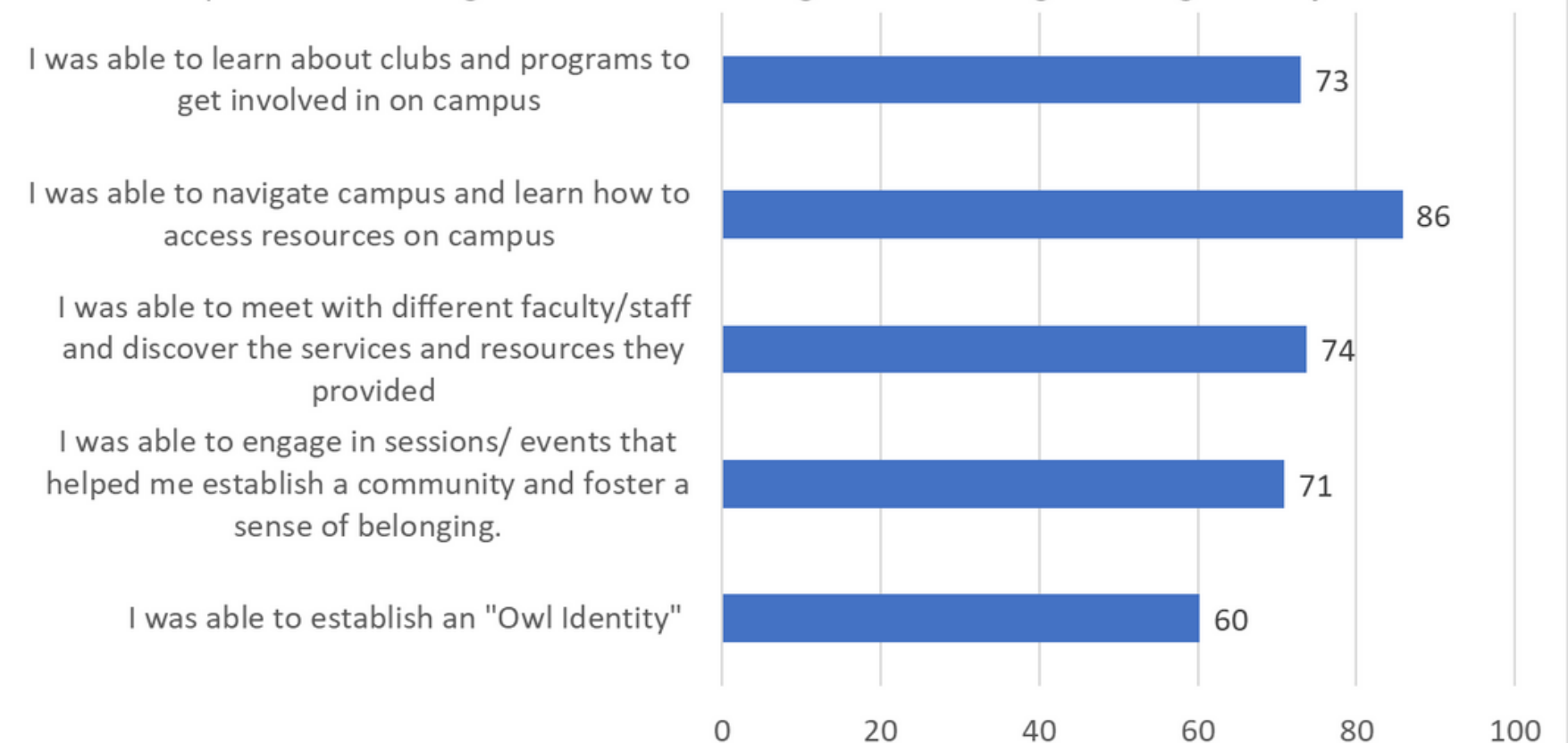## Monday, September 27, 2021

8 AM - 5 PM	Get your student ID made
8- 10 AM	Coffee & Pastries with Campus Safety
12:30-1:30 PM	Lunch w/ Faculty & Staff (grab a meal and spark a conversation with Oregon Tech faculty/staff)
1-3 PM	College Union Open House-- (Treehouse, Veterans Resource Center, Student Involvement and Belonging, Bookstore and so much more!)
5-7:30 PM	Dinner
7-9 PM	Laser Tag hosted by our Campus Activities Board

Tuesday, September 28, 2021

8 AM - 5 PM	Get your student ID made
10-11:30 am	Find your classes
12:30-1:30 PM	Integrated Student Health Center (ISHC) Lunch and Tour
2-4 PM	On-Campus Student Employment Fair
3-4:30	Difference by Design – UNLEARNing Assumptions
5-7:30 PM	Dinner
7-9 PM	Trivia Night presented by our Campus Activities Board
7-9 PM	Hike to the "O"

Graph 1.1: Percentage of Students that Agree to Meeting the Program Objectives

I was able to learn about clubs and programs to get involved in on campus	73
I was able to navigate campus and learn how to access resources on campus	86
I was able to meet with different faculty/staff and discover the services and resources they provided	74
I was able to engage in sessions/ events that helped me establish a community and foster a sense of belonging.	71
I was able to establish an "Owl Identity"	60

Oregon Tech
EST 1947
Oregon TECH

NSO 2021 ASSESSMENT

WHAT WAS THIS PROGRAM LACKING THAT COULD BE IMPACTING OUR FIRST YEAR STUDENTS?
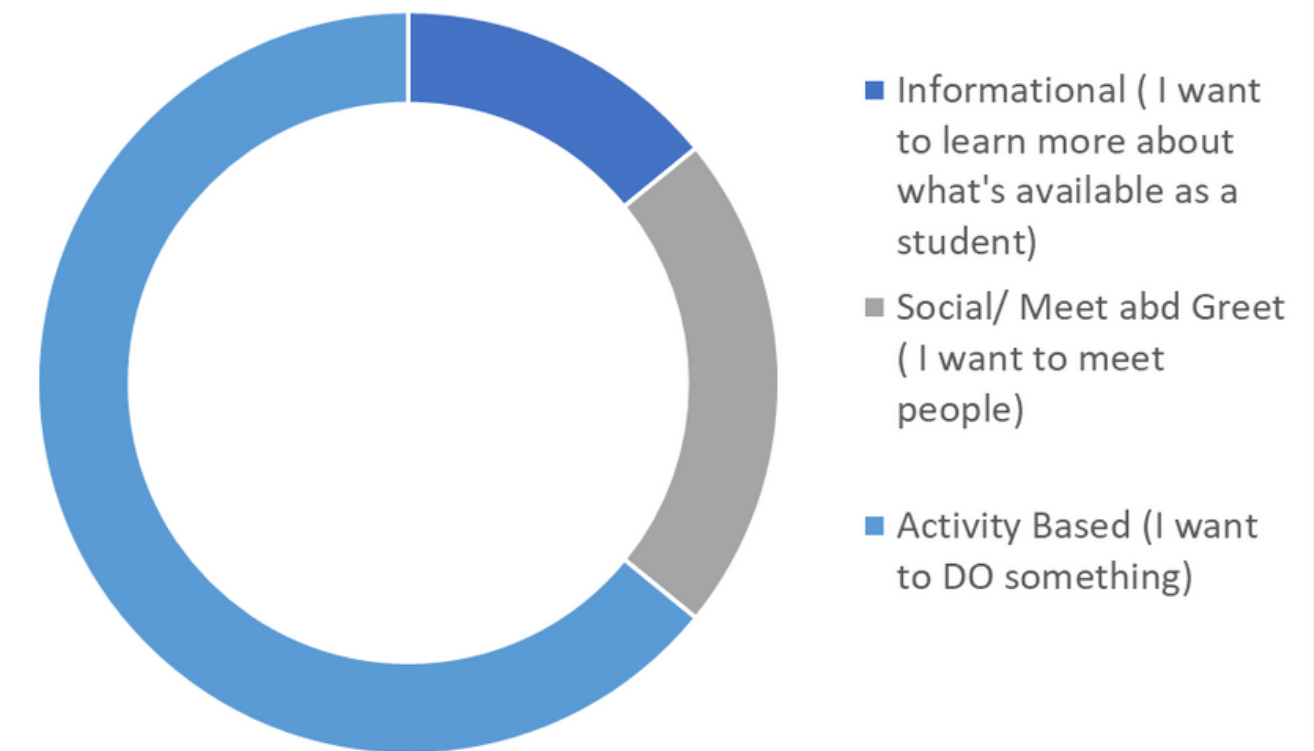
ASSESSMENT FINDINGS

- Able to learn and find resources on campus to help them be successful.
- The two lowest agreeance questions were "I felt connected with other students on campus" and "I felt the activities with faculty and staff across campus allowed me to start building relationships with them."
- University staff and faculty involvement were low outside of student affairs, the program was outsourced due to the availability of staff to help plan and organize such a program.

CHANGES FOR 2022

- Create an in-house experience
- Create goals and outcomes that our student population can achieve
- Cross-campus collaboration, bringing in campus partners
- Develop this program to be a TRUE HIP (High Impact Practice)
- Student Development theory, and lack of intentionality behind our orientation experience and how it plays a role in the student experience

Graph 1.4: What kind of events do you (student) want more of?

- Informational (I want to learn more about what's available as a student)
- Social/ Meet abd Greet (I want to meet people)
- Activity Based (I want to DO something)

ATTENDED 2022 FYE TO GATHER INFORMATION TO BRING BACK

NATIONAL RESOURCE CENTER
FIRST-YEAR EXPERIENCE® AND STUDENTS IN TRANSITION
UNIVERSITY OF SOUTH CAROLINA

41ST ANNUAL CONFERENCE ON THE

FIRST-YEAR
Experience

ORLANDO, FLORIDA
FEBRUARY 12-15, 2022

EARLY
REGISTRATION DEADLINE
December 2, 2021

TAKEAWAYS FROM 2022 FYE:

- Could you create a strategic plan that outlines the initiative and how it fits into the culture of our/your institution?
- Who are your stakeholders? To make this program happen, who do you need to have a "Buy-In" from?
- Welcoming students and retaining them to graduation is a campus effort, not just one person or department's responsibility.
- As a High Impact Practice (HIP), does this program meet best practices?
  - Creates an investment of time and energy
  - Includes interactions with faculty, staff, and peers about sustainable matters
  - Real-world applied experiences
  - High expectations
  - Frequent feedback
  - Exposure to diversity, equity, and inclusion initiatives and spaces
  - Demand reflection
  - Public display of ability

THE MISSING COMPETENCY- SOARING INTO SUCCESS
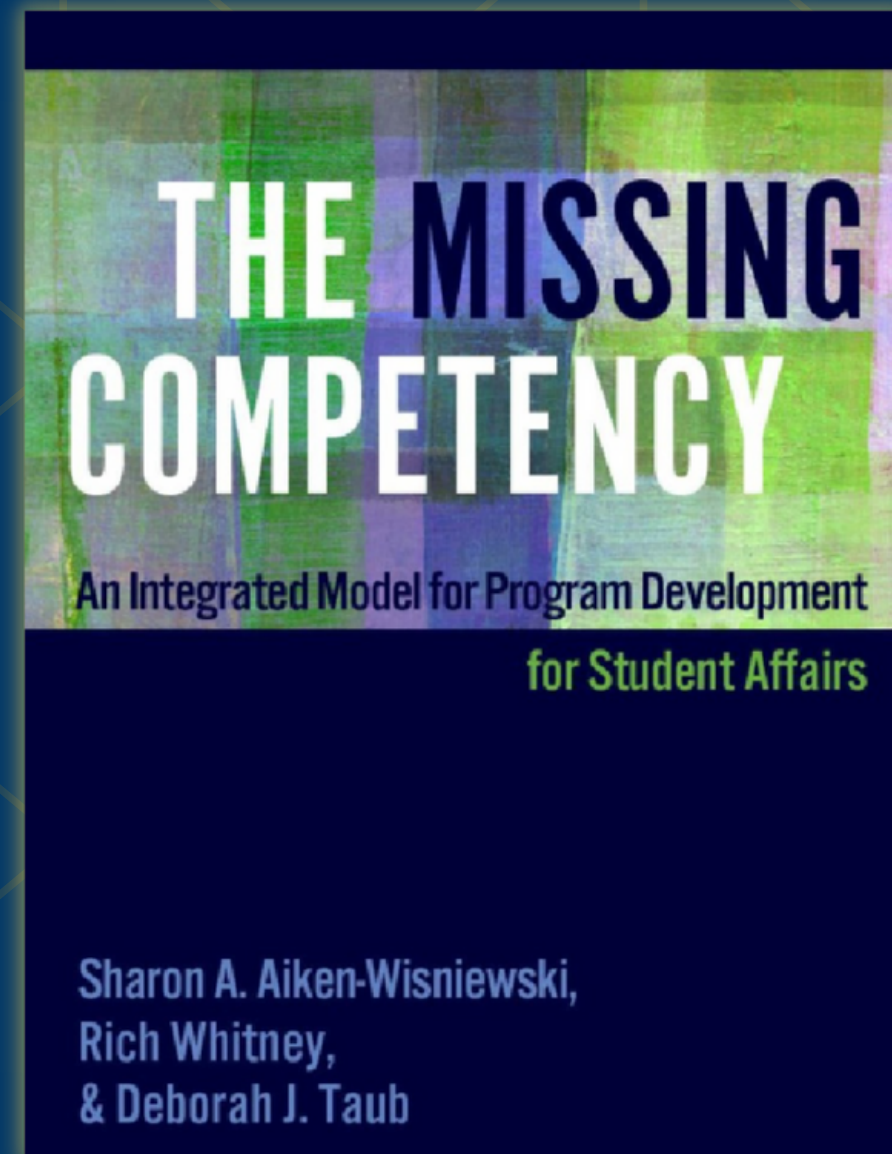
Aiken-Wisniewski, S.A., Whitney, R. & Taub, D.J. (2021). The Missing Competency: An Integrated Model for Program Development for Student Affairs. Stylus Publishing: Sterling, VA.
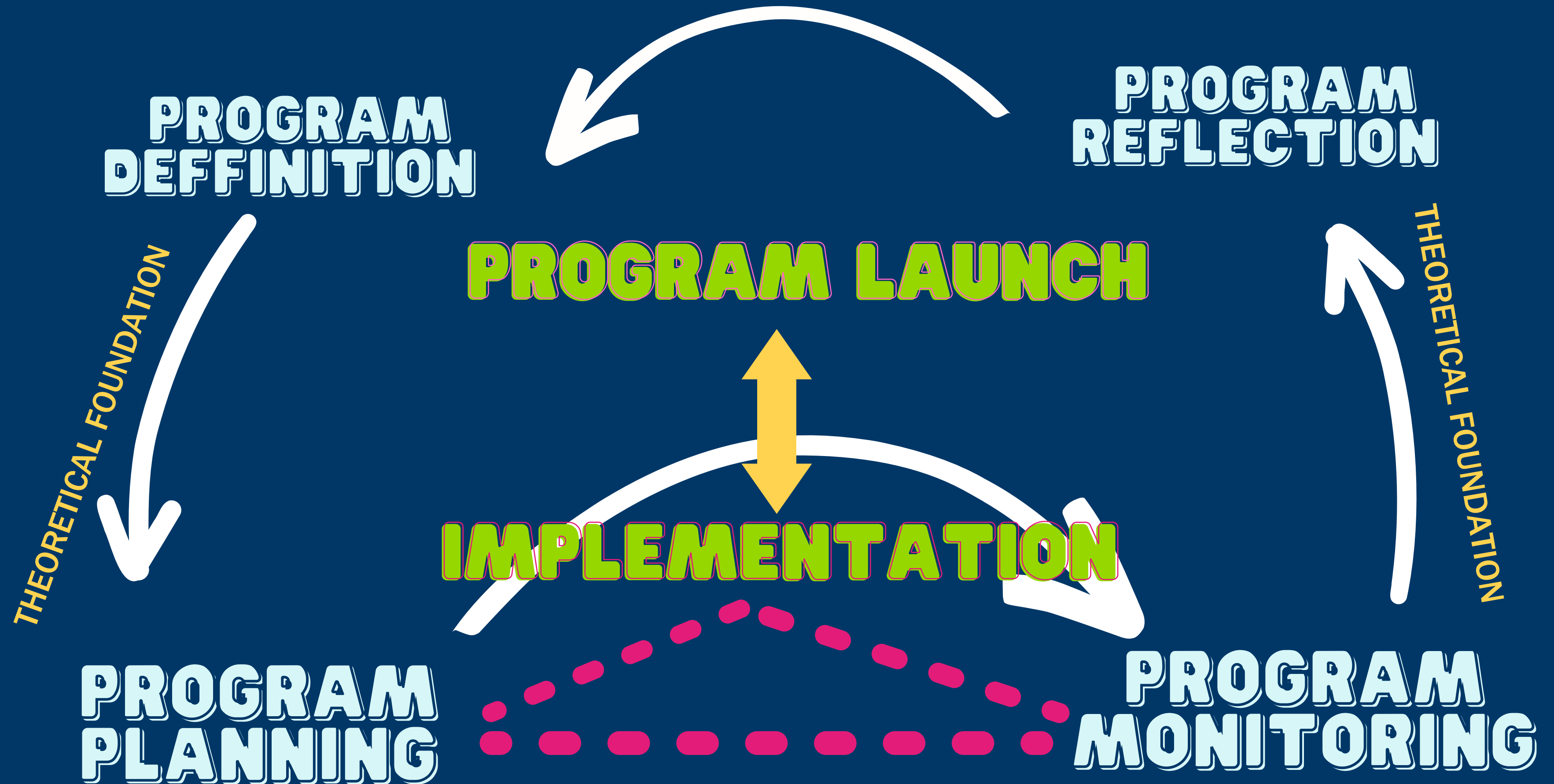
THEORETICAL FOUNDATION:

The Ecological Validation Model of Student Success represents this approach to student support and success that our S.O.A.R.-ing Into Success orientation program promotes. Student success is described as ecological in nature and validates students' multiple identities, assets, strengths, and innate capabilities for success in a web of multiple coordinated student support contexts over time.

ECOLOGICAL VALIDATION MODEL
OF STUDENT SUCCESS
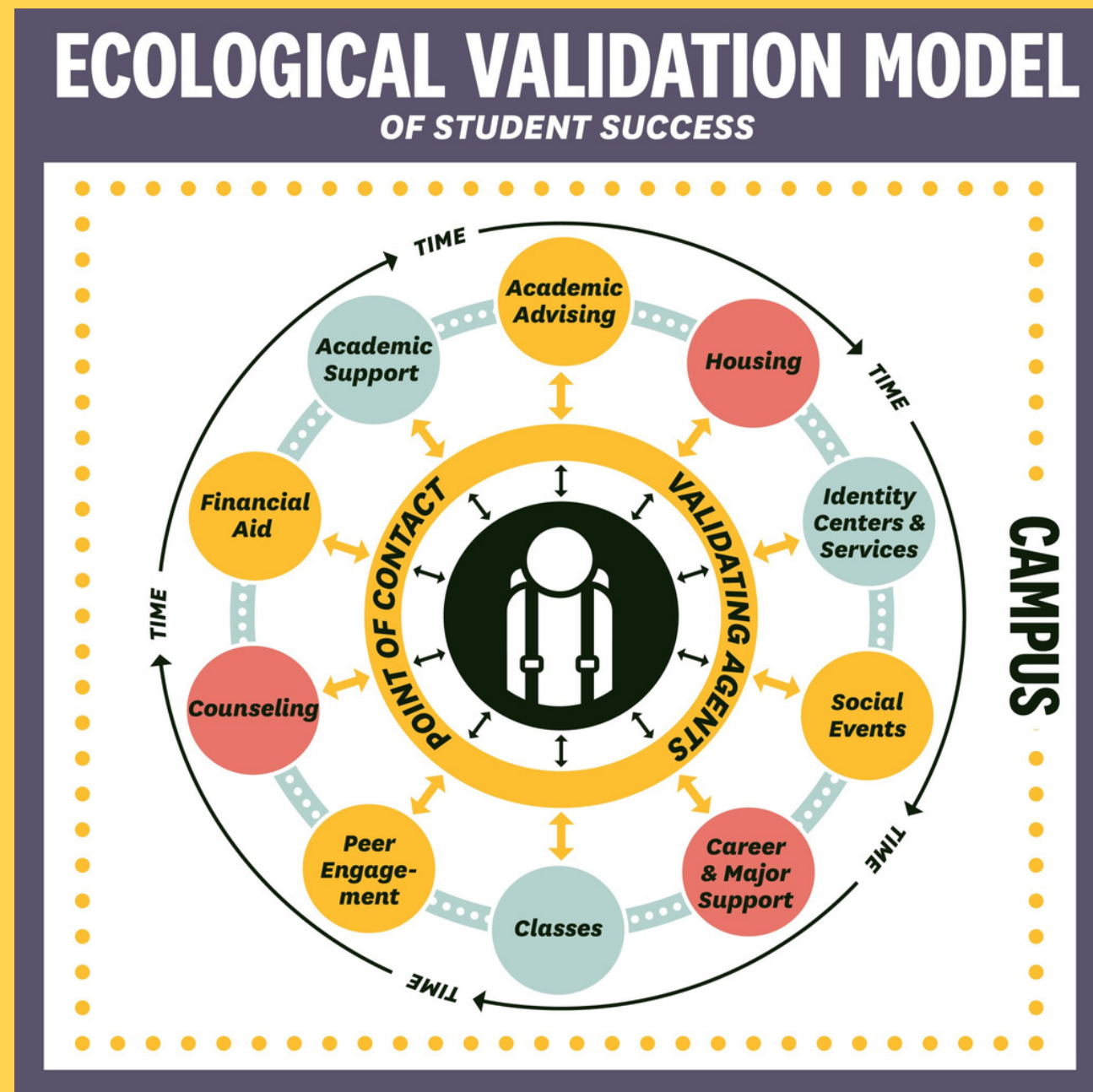
The model is described in terms of:
- what is being validated (Student- i.e., student characteristics, experiences, identities),
- how validation occurred (Process- academic and interpersonal validation);
- the multiple curated environments where validation occurred (Context- academic and student affairs departments, personnel, and events/activities); and
- when validation happens (Time- throughout college).

Kitchen, J.A., Perez, R., Hallett, R., Kezar, A., & Reason, R. (2021). Ecological Validation Model of Student Success: A New Student Support Model for Promoting College Student Success Among Low-Income, First-Generation, and Racially Minoritized Students. *Journal of College Student Development*, 62(6), 627-642..

PROGRAM PLANNING: PART 1

The Mission of Orientation: S.O.A.R-ing Into Success is to develop an opportunity for Oregon Tech's new students and their families/supporters to attend an experience that aids in the university transition process; that will inform students of the support available to them; opportunities to explore co-curricular and career prospects; as well as be well informed on how students and families can be integrated into life at Oregon Tech.

SOAR VISION

Find Support - Sense of Belonging and Resources
Explore Opportunities - Student Involvement and Career Exploration
Achieve Academic Success - Skills & Strategies
Build Resiliency - Continuing to SOAR at Oregon Tech

CONNECTION TO OREGON TECH'S STRATEGIC PLAN

Pillars:

- Commitment to Student Success
- Commitment to Innovation
- Commitment to Community
- commitment to Institutional Excellence

PROGRAM PLANNING: PART 2

Who are our stakeholders:
- Academic Partners:
  - Deans
  - Provost and Associate Provost
  - Faculty senate
  - Faculty Rockstars: Professors that are actively involved across campus
- Division of Student Affairs
  - Directors
  - Dean of Students/VP of Student Affairs

Development of a back-dater for our program:
- 6-12 months prior
- 3-6 months prior
- 2 months prior
- 1 month prior
- 2 weeks prior
- 1 week prior
- Day Before
- Day of Task
- Week After event

BACK-DATER:

Task	Assigned to	Date assigned	Date needed
Task Needed 6- 12 months prior to event/program			
define purpose of the program			
choose event/program			
determine the committee and make sure everyone is represented			
who is the chair			
Draft learning outcomes			
determine assessment and evaluation plan			
explore sites			
are the sites accessible			
Determine rain plan			
determine entry and exit points			
determine partners			
determine student body representation			
what is the budget			
contact list of departments			
select venue			
what are things going to cost/swag/food/venue/			
decorating cost			
arrange for photography			
what are the technology needs.			
Identify social media and existing online resources			
Materials to be purchased			
What materials need to be translated			
Compile student list			
estimate the number of guest			

PROGRAM LAUNCH & IMPLEMENTATION

Orientation: S.O.A.R-ing into Success

Klamath Falls Campus
Fall 2022

SCHEDULE OF EVENTS

SOAR-ING
Klamath Falls

Sunday, September 25

Student and Parent check-in
- Receive your SOAR-ing into Success materials from SIB staff and make your way to the CU Auditorium for our University Welcome.

University Welcome
  SIB, VP Student Affairs, Provost, University President

Technology on a TECH campus (ITS and the APP)
  ITS, SIB

Campus Security, Safety, and Parking
  Campus Security

Payments, Fees, and Funding FAQs
  Cashier's Office, Financial Aid, Foundation

"OWL" THAT: Supporting your Owl's Involvement
- Opportunities at Oregon Tech are at the tip of your wings. Learn how involvement can impact your university experience.
  SIB, DICE, CARES

Coaching your Student to Success
  Academic Advising and Retention

Discover your Academic College
- Academic Dean hosts students and their supporters and presents at the college that their major falls. Gives them the opportunity to learn about academic rigor/expectations as well as hear from a panel of professors.

Foundation mixer downtown/on-campus
- With help of the University Development, Oregon Tech Foundation, and Academic Partners in HAS & ETM, creating an opportunity for parents to meet with distinguished administrators would allow Oregon Tech to directly talk about the future of the university and how that will create value for the student's degrees.

CU AFTER DARK
See You at the College Union

- Partnering to create a showcase of clubs and programs that runs late into the night. From 8:00 PM- 12:00 PM, new students will have the opportunity to mingle with clubs and programs in a fun and interactive way!
  SIB, College Union, Housing & Residence Life

DAY 2: Student Schedule

WHO and WHAT

	WHO	WHAT
S	Check-in and Welcome 9:00 AM - 10:00 AM	Check-in to the stadium, where after you are checked in we start setting students upon a way that spells out OT. *SIB, Athletics*
O	OT Photo 10:00 AM - 10:30 AM	Organize students in OT fashion and snap a picture. *SIB, Athletics, Marketing*
S	"We Know an Owl"- Playfair (90 min)	This is an opportunity for our SOAR Leaders to help lead a mingle activity with the students that help break the ice and build new relationships. SIB
S	Integrated Student Health Center Tour and Lunch	ISHC Leads their annual lunch and tour, with everyone walking from the stadium to the health center. ISHC
S	Family Time	Opportunity for students and their SOAR Leader to do an interactive family session to build bonds

O — Breakout Session (Non-Trad, First-Time, International)

Non-Traditional Students	First-Time Students	International Students
Non-traditional students are classified as students not right out of high school	Career exploration (test?)	International current student connections
What does it mean to be a non-trad student at Oregon Tech?	The commuter life? How to prepare.	Employment? Can I work in the United States?
Am I employed? what are my job opportunities or career exploration options?	Living on-campus, how to put the I in OIT.	How can Oregon Tech help me be successful?
Connect with other non-trad students incoming and current.	Campus Rec, Intramural/Club Sports	What do I want out of this experience?
	My Oregon Tech, Where do I fit in?	

SO — Getting Involved, Where do I fit into Oregon Tech?
Exploring identities and affinity spaces and groups.

Fraternity & Sorority Student Experience	Religious & Spiritual Student Experience	Racial & Ethnic Diversity Student Experience
Non-Traditional Student Experience	Veteran Student Experience	Gender & Sexuality Diversity Student Experience

| Hike to the O | Outdoor Programs host the annual 'Hike to the O' activity. OP |

DAY 3: Student Schedule

WHO and WHAT

	WHO	WHAT
A	"How to Hustle" Academic Excellence Breakfast	With the help of CARES, HAS and ETM gather to present a how-to excel breakfast full of tips and tricks for passing courses.
A	How to build healthy relationships with your professors	CARES, ISHC, HAS and ETM, Academic Advising and Retention
A	Never have a feather out of place: Time Management	Learn valuable time management skills and how to stay organized throughout the semester. CARES, Academic Advising and Retention
A	Need Academic help? Peer tutoring is here to help!	CARES
A	College Breakout	HAS and ETM deans and faculty, major and minor exploration. How can students learn what they can about what field they're going into?
A	The most important project at Oregon Tech is Me	Self care, how can student take care and improve on themselves while at Oregon Tech. ISHC, SIB
R	Welcome to the Hill: Life on Campus	VP of Student Affairs addresses student conduct, alcohol, and tobacco on campus with the help of Housing and Residence Life
R	How to ACE your First Year!	With the syllabus going out tomorrow, what can students do to make sure they don't get behind. CARES, SIB
R	Amazing Race: Campus Scavenger Hunt	Planned student scavenger hunt/amazing race that allows student to become familiar with campus. SIB, Admissions, Housing & Residence Life
R	We are Oregon Tech!	Check out and receive your end of event swag item.

463 NEW UNDERGRADUATE STUDENTS ON CAMPUS

200+ STUDENTS ACTIVELY CHECKED IN AND PARTICIPATED THROUGHOUT SOAR

406 REGISTERED FOR ORIENTATION: S.O.A.R.ING INTO SUCCESS

350+ SUPPORTERS AND GUESTS ATTENDED S.O.A.R.ING INTO SUCCESS

30+ DEPARTMENTS WERE INVOLVED ACROSS CAMPUS

31 OPPORTUNITIES TO LEARN ABOUT RESOURSES AND MEET FACULTY, STAFF AND PEERS
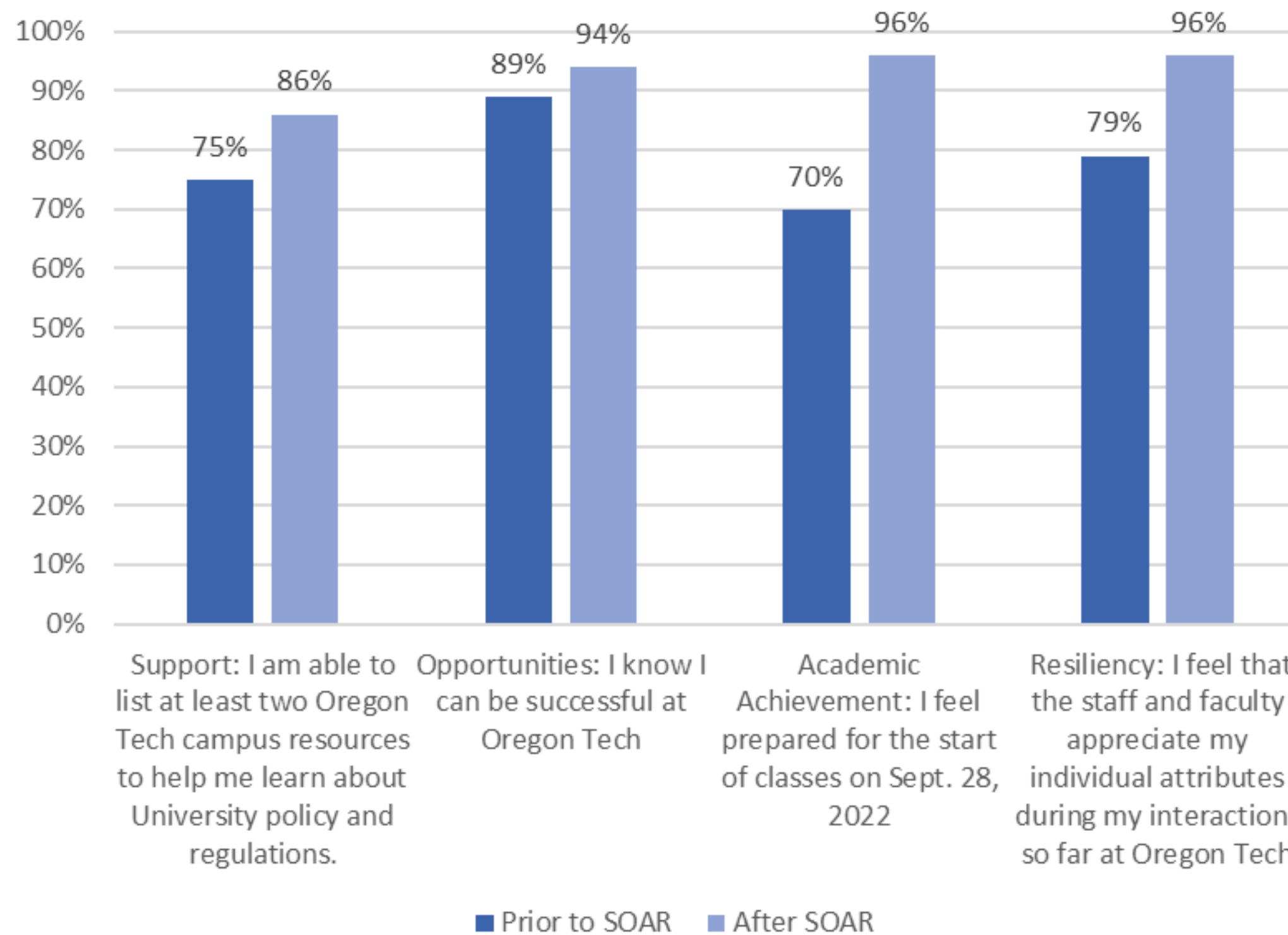
2022 S.O.A.R Pre and Post Survey Comparisons	PRE	POST
I feel confident about living away from home.	60%	84%
I am confident in my ability to match my skills and interests with my major and career choice.	82%	90%
I am able to describe the significance of taking responsibility for my own education.	94%	95%
I am confident in my ability to be a successful college student.	75%	91%
To what extent would you say that our university provides a sense of inclusion and a welcoming environment for students	81%	90%
To what extent did you feel accepted by our faculty/staff	79%	96%
I am able to describe the difference between a subsidized and unsubsidized loan as part of my financial aid.	40%	95%
I am able to list at least two Oregon Tech campus resources to help me learn about University policy and regulations.	47%	89%
I am able to identify ways to get involved academically and co-curricularly.	56%	84%
I feel prepared and ready for university	58%	86%
I am able to describe the actions I must take to meet faculty expectations in a university course.	67%	92%
I am able to define academic integrity and know its importance in and outside of the classroom	92%	94%
I am able to name and locate two campus resources that will improve my learning skills and support my academic performance.	46%	92%

PROGRAM REFLECTION

CHALLENGES:

- Understanding the difference between our different First year experience programs
- More logistical details around space size, the technology available, timing, etc.
- More communication and starting earlier.
- More signage across campus during the event.
- Sitting for long periods of time was uncomfortable for the students.

POINTS OF PRIDE:

- Actively brought together the entire campus to welcome our incoming students.
- The high energy lasted throughout the whole event.
- 10+ opportunities to meet with faculty and staff across campus.
- 20+ opportunities for students to learn helpful resources and opportunities to be involved academically and socially.
- Parents/Supporters enjoyed their information session and the chance to have time for just them.
- Students were engaged in an intentional high-impact practice.

YEAR 3 OF ORIENTATION AT OREGON TECH:

The First Year Experience Advisory Board is initiated by the Department of Student Involvement and Belonging (SIB) to help review and prepare for first-year student initiatives:

- Flight School (pre-orientation bridge program)
- SOAR-ing into Success (new student orientation)
- Week of Welcome
- Other first-year initiatives on our Klamath Falls campus

These programs expose students to campus resources and create a positive early experience that increases student persistence, retention, and success. Our charge is to identify relevant research and high-impact practices for first-year students as well as develop an implementation plan for these programs and initiatives at Oregon Tech.

BOARD MEMBERS

- **New Student Programs Coordinator**
- **Tech Opportunities Program (Trio)**
- **Dean of the College of Engineering, Technology, and Management**
- **Dean of College of Health, Arts and Science**
- **Housing and Residence Life**
- **Peer Tutoring anf Supplemental Instruction**
- **Student Involvement and Belonging**
- **Financial Aid**
- **Athletics**
- **Academic Advising and Retention**
- **Admissions**
- **Student At-Large**
- **Academic Affairs ASOIT Officer**

WHATS NEXT FOR YOU?

Check out our Website for RESOURCES to help you remodel your Program:

- Program Assessments & Snapshots
- Strategic Plan of Program
- Advisory Board Charge
- Back-dater for program development
- Access to THIS presentation

SCROLL TO THE BOTTOM OF WEBSITE

Please remember to submit your evaluation on Guidebook!

#FYE23

www.sc.edu/fye