

**From Department of Campus Life
End-of-Year Report for Academic Year 2016-2017
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New Student Orientation

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Review of General Accomplishments/Events:

From CAS: Orientation Programs (OP) must facilitate the transition of new students into the institution; prepare students for the institution's educational opportunities and student responsibilities; initiate the integration of new students into the intellectual, cultural, and social climate of the institution; and support the parents, partners, guardians, and children of the new student. OP should design and facilitate opportunities for new students to meet their peers and begin forming new relationships.

The mission of Oregon Tech's NSO is to empower incoming students by providing opportunities and experiences which are designed to:

- Connect with their fellow students
- Equip new students with resources and areas of support
- Facilitate transition and foster success in collaboration with other campus departments
- Integrate students with the campus and Klamath Falls communities

Fall NSO provides a Welcome Week experience which both prepares students to be successful at Oregon Tech and promotes getting connected with the campus community as quickly as possible. This year, nearly 40 students volunteered during fall NSO events and collectively donated close to 600 hours of service to the university.

Both winter and spring orientation programs were provided for incoming freshman and transfer students. While only serving a small group of students, the information provided by the SA Directors was helpful for students and they responded positively to the events. The winter orientation event was particularly useful for the international cohort from Finland to identify campus resources and make contacts that were essential to their exchange program experience.

Increases in resources, programs, events, activities and participation over last year:

With this year's NSO Team, one overarching goal was to retain the high attendance numbers we bring on Thursday to the rest of the week's events. To accomplish this, an "Amazing Race" theme was implemented to motivate students to stay connected with their families and attend all events so that they receive the greatest number of points possible. Consequently, event attendance was consistently strong throughout. With 260 individuals checked in on Thursday, over two-thirds of our events were attended by at least 85% of these new students.

During the Fred Meyer Takeover event, 530 students and over 150 faculty/staff/guests joined due to the benefits of the event and the fact it is widely advertised to both incoming and returning students.

Challenges:

As in years past, it was difficult to track attendance at each event. This year, we collected attendance numbers at most events where food was served or the entire group was gathered in one location. Card readers will continue to be used at future events and we plan to add a training piece regarding their use at the volunteer training prior to the event.

The volunteer force is essential to the success of the NSO Program. We held a one-day training on the Monday before NSO. This training will continue to be restructured to better equip the volunteers for their specific duties throughout the week. A volunteer handbook was given to everyone that attended the volunteer training on Monday. Included in each manual were all event layouts, schedules, necessary equipment lists, maps, and anything else required to run the event if, on the small chance, no NSO team members could be present. This allowed our volunteers to be as informed as possible while not requiring the direct assistance of any staff members. In turn, these faithful leaders were seen leading events, coordinating logistics, and serving at check-in at every single event.

Areas Identified for Growth:

Recommendations for the future of NSO were discussed in a debrief meeting with the student team and were also provided by the Campus Life department, Dr. Foley, and student volunteers. The following changes have been identified as areas of improvement:

- Place fewer required hours of work on the team throughout the week of NSO
- Streamline check in tables and logistical interaction with students to make necessary formalities less of an inconvenience
- Research team members' personalities to find how they work best, how they deal with stress/conflict, etc.
- Create separation between NSO and Arts of the Flyway so that necessary work doesn't become too much for the NSO Team
- Allow NSO Team to have personal connections with campus departments to better connect them to incoming students through a peer-to-peer association

Event List:

Date	Event Name	Attendance
September 17	Team Meet & Greet Mixer with TOP & Flight School	34
September 21	Movie Night	109
September 22	Check In	
	Parent Orientation	
	Welcome Program	261
	HOORAY! Mixer	220
	Group Photo	
	Student Programs Open House & Behind the Scenes Tour	
	Owl Nighter Game Night & Hike to the "O"	56
September 23	Breakfast Club	153
	C.L. Lindsay Alcohol & the Law	229 (all sessions)
	College Health & Safety Panel	
	C.L. Lindsay Sex & the Law	
	ISHC Lunch	201
	Soccer Tailgate Party & Spirit "T" Decorating	140
	"Major" Pizza Party & Upperclassmen Panel	248
	Fred Meyer Takeover	536
September 24	Arts on the Flyway Festival	120
	Light Up the Night* Party at the Ross Ragland Theater	190
September 25	Early Bird Super Club Sign Up & Brunch	
	Day of Color	
	Closing Ceremonies	
January 13	Winter NSO Luncheon	24
April 7	Spring NSO Luncheon	11