Stories of Workplace Engagement and Professional Development

Each month we showcase a member of Student Affairs who demonstrates a high level of engagement in their job and a commitment to professional development. This month we showcase Steve Whistler who works in Campus Recreation and Intramural Services. Click here to hear Dan Bureau’s short interview about how Steve explains good work in his area and incorporates professional development.

Check out a blog written in July on what I’ve learned from conducting these interviews.

Access to New Directions for Student Services

We have purchased access to a premier journal/monograph for conducting student affairs work. You can access past, current and future issues by going here. If you’d like the password (U of M staff members only) then send me an email.

Developing Your Individualized Professional Development Plan! Set Goals FOR YOUR Development in 2014!

A tutorial on how to use the individualized professional development plan and the template are now available for your review.

The template encourages the use of the ACPA and NASPA Professional Competency Areas for Student Affairs. We recommend reviewing this document as you begin developing your plan!

Our goal is 25 staff will have a plan by June 2014. Let Dan Bureau know how he can help you develop your plan today!

Spring Break Professional Development Challenge

Yes we’re three months away from spring break, but it’s never too early to mark your calendars for March 10-14th from 9-11 each day for our annual Spring Break Professional Development Challenge. If you have ideas for workshops, please let Dan Bureau know.

Professional Development Fridays

We’re upping the game with professional development this spring and offering sessions focused on a range of topics beginning January 31st.

They will be hosted each Friday from 9-11. Some will be an in-depth two hours session and others will be two 50 minute sessions. More information to follow in the spring and sign ups within three days of the workshop will be required in order to ensure we will have an audience for the training. Mark those calendars now for these opportunities!

Free MOOC: Exploring the Student Affairs in Higher Education Profession

Itching to try out that first MOOC (massive open online course)? Take this one and learn more about the profession you have chosen! Colorado State University is hosting and it’s FREE! Sign up here. The curriculum might speak more to those considering the work, but good reminders about why we chose this field can be helpful.

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Educational Benchmarking Food for Thought Webinar Series
Supplement your learning by attending these half-hour webinars, hosted by Educational Benchmarking each month. They are at noon each day for a half hour. The titles are hyperlinked so that you can view the description. You do not need to register. Just show up with your lunch and ready to learn. We’ll hang for a half hour after in case people want to talk more about the content.
January 21st: Fountain View Room  What’s Important: Making Sense of Survey Data
More to come in 2014!

Research in Brief
This month’s article focuses on student dispositions and eventual student success during the first year. You can access it here.
Here’s the abstract:
This study focused on the dispositions of entering first-year students, their perceptions of classroom and institutional environments, and their subsequent academic engagement.

Exceptional Student Affairs Blogs
Christopher Conzen is someone to follow in student affairs. He is active on Twitter (@chrisconzen) and also maintains a blog called “A Life in Progress”. A posting from January is particularly important given the feelings many of us get of burnout.
Check out Chris’ blog here and let me know what you think!
Personally, I wonder if we should be talking more about recovery and resiliency – maybe burnout is a natural part of life and work. It might be more vital to talk about how we bounce back from the burnout and use past knowledge to inform future practice. Some tips on avoiding burnout can be found here.

Assessment Corner
Need some quick assessments to capture student learning? Tired of the same old tactics and want to move beyond the survey and to more direct measures? Check out this resource by Maggie Culp (maggieculpt.org)

Raffle Opportunity!
In 50 words or less, what was your favorite section of this month’s newsletter. Share your thoughts here and anyone completing the form by January 6th will be in a raffle to receive a $10 gift card to a store/restaurant of their choice. Anyone in student affairs at the University of Memphis can win!

Student Affairs & Social Media/Technology Corner
Usually, this corner focuses on providing some resource that could be of interest. We’ve featured organization tools, social media forums and note taking options such as Evernote. However, sometimes research works best to convey what we should be doing relative to student affairs and technology.

Did you know there is a journal dedicated to student affairs and technology? Through StudentAffairs.com you can find the journal. The most recent issue includes an article on social media and student learning.

There has also been a survey conducted about student affairs and social media that brings forth interesting considerations for the field. Check it out here.

Increasing Competence and Confidence: A Blog Dedicated to Student Affairs Professional Development
Recent postings include student affairs focus on retention, evolving to scholar/practitioner, and how association conferences enrich our lives and drain our souls all at once (this last one will be posted by December 23)