

## **Recommendation:**

We recommend a full-day summer registration event with new, improved programming. Programming goals will include:

- Clearly convey to students needed and timely information and expectations to successfully transition to the university
- Create connections between students, their peer attendees, and BHSU mentors
- Provide information that helps students create an individualized course schedule
- Convey relevant and timely information to parents
- Help parents understand how to support their students to be successful
- Foster sense of connection with the BHSU campus and the Spearfish community

We recommend that the Freshmen Advising Center be responsible for coordinating the NSR events. Until this advising center is created, we recommend that a task force be created to redesign NSR for Summer 2020.

We also recommend that BHSU hire current students to serve as orientation leaders for NSR and that all staff assisting with NSR attend a training and orientation to the event.

## **Why:**

A review of schedules from peer and regional institutions suggests a whole day model is the norm.

<b><u>Peer Institution</u></b>	<b><u>Event Model</u></b>
Northern State University	Full day
South Dakota State University	Full day
University of Wyoming	1.5 days (with stay in residence hall)

Additionally, qualitative survey data from Summer 2019 BHSU NSR exit surveys indicate a whole day model is preferred by students and parents. Examples of comments include:

“It felt like it was a lot pushed into a very short amount of time.”

“A little overwhelming, mainly just due to it being in a short amount of time.”

“Enjoyed the day. Could easily be a full day to make it not so compact.”

“Full day would be beneficial for spacing and timing.”

We can conclude from this data that a full day schedule would be an acceptable model in the eyes of past participants.

We also wish to create an experience at NSR that reinforces the idea for students and parents that BHSU is the right choice. More than 50% of the students and parents surveyed traveled more than three hours to attend NSR. We must show hospitality and a commitment to

providing quality information, answering questions, and conveying competence and confidence.

Additionally, the current NSR model is quite similar to the model used for BHSU Preview Days. These are very different events with distinct and separate purposes. NSR should be the first event in a three-pronged informational and relational approach (NSR, Orientation, and GS100-Freshman Experience course) to a successful transition and first semester at BHSU. This approach allows us to engage in “just in time” information sharing as well as reiteration of important topics and continuous mindset coaching.

**What:**

We recommend that the coordination of the new student registration event be assigned to the Freshmen Advising Center. While this event will need to include people from Student Affairs (Housing, Student Engagement, Admissions, and Registrar’s Office), Athletics, and Academic Affairs, we believe that having a single group responsible to organizing the event will result in a better experience for incoming students and their families.

We recommend the following sessions or events:

**1. For Incoming Students**

- How to Successfully Transition to College (Mythbusters style)
- University-provided lunch (*could we get a sponsor?*)
- Information/Resource Fair (*with parents, possibly in combination with lunch-Picnic or in Hive*)

Campus Groups to Participate in Resource Fair		
Student Financial Services/Financial Aid	Residence Life	Center for American Indian Studies
TRIO/Student Support Services	Student Engagement	Study Abroad/International
Math & Writing Centers/Tutoring	Athletics	Veterans Services & ROTC
Counseling Center	University Honors	Rapid City campus
Student Health	Music/Theatre	Registrar
Disability Services	Scholarships	

- Social event – connect to current (orientation leader) and other incoming students
  - Student Panel?
  - Conversation cards?
  - Snacks/ice cream
- Group Photo
- Technology (D2L, SNAP, Campus Activities app, etc.)
- Getting Involved on Campus – Student Organizations and Programming

- Microsessions prior to registration – short, carefully curated information about:
  - The purpose of general education & how to choose gen ed courses
  - What is GS 100?
  - Planning a successful credit load
  - Paying for college – scholarships, financial aid, payment plans, etc.
  - Working as a student/employment resources
  - FERPA
- Advising/Registration – one-on-one advising for registration
- Classroom experience – Mock Class/Geek Speak
- Campus Tour – including Young Center and Residence Hall
- Students could choose to participate in specialized sessions to learn more about:
  - Undecided/exploratory
  - School specific sessions
  - Study abroad
  - Honors
  - Living on Campus
- Some sort of wrap-up celebratory event
- Expectations and Responsibilities of Students

## 2. For Parents

- Information/Resource Fair (*see above*)
- Paying for College
- Transitions and Change – Helping your Child Transition to College
- Registration – What might my student’s schedule look like? (why Gen Eds, importance of GS 100, effects of dual credit)
- The Big Picture – this session would talk about involvement on campus, soft skill development in/outside the classroom, career resources, study abroad, internships, and how it all ties in to getting a job after graduation
- Technology Demonstration
- FERPA
- Safety & Security
- Campus Tour
- Tour of Spearfish Area

## 3. Check-In: In addition to registration information they already receive, add:

- Map of BHSU
- Map of Spearfish
- Black Hills map
- List of important phone numbers, offices, resources
- List of local places to eat/stay
- List of things to do in area

- Discounts for local businesses or events?
- 4. Assessment: Students and parents will be asked to complete a survey of both quantitative and qualitative data for future program improvement**
- Swag will be awarded for registration/survey completion:*
- Hammock
  - Laundry bag
- 5. Additional Recommendations:**
- Create an orientation website where all onboarding information can be found.
    - Related to creating a website with information for Parents.
  - Describe the event as mandatory
  - Pair these events with community activities like Sasquatch games, events at the Matthews Opera House, seasonal festivals or Downtown Spearfish events.
- 6. Rebranding:**
- The event needs a new name – perhaps Jump Into Jacket Nation or Jacket Jumpstart?
    - Need a sensory experience similar to Butterbeer (Pete Blank) or SDSU ice cream
    - Perhaps a special ice cream from Leones’ – “Stinging Honeycomb?”
- 7. Transfer Students**
- Welcome to attend with new students. If transfer students attend during new student registration during the summer, we need to create a specialized session for transfer students. *(Maybe in place of “How to successfully transition to college”)*
  - Create an abbreviated version especially for Transfer Students to be held on one of the days just prior to classes starting
    - They could check into Residence Hall early
    - This could be made available for all students who missed a summer session
- 8. Staffing**
- Hire current BHSU students to serve as orientation leaders for NSR, to work Orientation during first 6 weeks of classes, and serve as peer mentors for GS 100
  - NSR coordinators would need to create mandatory training/orientation for all of the people who will be working the NSR events over the summer
  - Sessions should be completed and vetted before being presented to students/parents
  - All of campus should be aware of NSR days and changes to schedules/ repairs/ etc. be made accordingly

*Though the components we believe are needed have been listed above, a working group must convene to create and coordinate the schedule in detail.*

## **Other Considerations**

- Accommodations in the Black Hills can be very costly, especially in the summer. Administration should consider the feasibility of making residence halls available for families who travel for NSR and need to stay the night.
- Recommend that a task force be created to redesign NSR for summer 2020 made of Admissions, Registrar's Office, Student Affairs, and Academic Affairs.

## **Outcomes:**

### **Students participating in NSR will:**

1. Leave registered for an individualized schedule of appropriate fall and spring classes and be able to articulate why they are enrolled in these courses.
2. Have a basic understanding of BHSU resources available to support BHSU students.
3. Make a social connection to other students starting in the fall.
4. Develop a connection with at least one faculty, staff, or peer mentor.
5. Receive and understand the basic information needed to successfully begin their first semester.
6. Feel increased confidence about their ability to successfully transition into college.
7. Have their decision to attend BHSU reaffirmed.
8. Know who to call if they have questions.

### **Parents participating in NSR will:**

1. Know where to find BHSU resources and information to support their student in college.
2. Leave with tips on how to encourage their student to be successful.
3. Have a basic understanding of FERPA.
4. Feel that staff and faculty are competent and have the best interest of their student in mind, reaffirming their decision to send their student to BHSU.
5. Feel a connection to BHSU as the parent of a Yellowjacket.