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UPCOMING IMPORTANT DATES

March 29 - Advising Week begins

April 3-5 - Easter Long Weekend

April 7 - Summer 2021 registration opens

April 7-8 - Fall 2021 Registration opens for undergraduate students

April 30 - Last day of Spring classes



OFFICE OF UNDERGRADUATE ACADEMIC ADVISING

APR 2021 | VOL 1 ISSUE 5

THE ACADEMIC ADVISOR NEWSLETTER

Shannon Rogers (Academic Advising Graduate Assistant) and Maura O'Mahony (Academic Advising Work Study)

MEET THE STAFF

Shannon Rogers

Meet Shannon, the Graduate Assistant for the Office of Undergraduate Academic Advising. This is her first year at Messiah University. Shannon studied Health and Exercise Science at Bridgewater College before coming to Messiah to earn her Masters in Higher Education with a concentration in Intercollegiate Athletic Leadership.



FOUR SECRETS TO EFFECTIVE ACADEMIC ADVISING

From HigherEdJobs.com

In a time when the public is questioning the value of higher education, and enrollment goals at universities across the country are not being met, academic advisors have a unique opportunity to help retain students. Academic advisors play a critical role in helping students develop an educational plan that is in line with their vocational goals and help to shape students' futures. Through the following steps, we can grow closer to the most effective advising to retain students.

TAKE OWNERSHIP IN STUDENT SUCCESS

Celia Cook-Huffman, assistant provost at Juniata College, a school with an 85% retention rate, says that when it comes to academic advising, "Relationships matter, and connection is central to building strong, effective advising and mentoring relationships." Advisors have an obligation to help students make a plan to navigate their education and should want to put in the extra work to help students make it to graduation.

KNOW WHEN AND WHERE TO REFER

Being certain of your own limitations as an advisor is very important, as well as knowing where to direct a student when you don't have an answer. Be aware of the community on campus and opportunities available to your students. If you feel led to make a referral for a student, make sure you follow up on that referral to see if any additional steps are necessary.

MAKE THE TIME

Try not to rush through a conversation with a student. Ask them how they're doing outside of the classroom, and if you run out of time, ask them to come back on another day to finish the conversation. The little things will make you a trustworthy ally to your student - a quick email to check in, saying hello on campus, following up with them after conversations. Invest in the students success, and it can only stand to benefit you, the school, and your advisees.

LEARN TO READ BETWEEN THE LINES

Though it may seem obvious, Cook-Huffman believes that truly listening is crucial in academic advising. "Ask open-ended questions; really listen to their narratives about themselves," she advises. Avoid making assumptions or interrupting.

Instead, engage with students by having open, honest, and reflective conversations with them.

For more information, visit <https://www.higheredjobs.com/Articles/articleDisplay.cfm?ID=1962>

Previously Recorded Spring Workshops available for viewing

This spring, the office of Undergraduate Academic Advising hosted two training seminars. In February, Dr. Courtney Lloyd and Dr. Marie Bunner of West Chester University presented "Addressing Student Anxiety In Academic Advising." The link to view this session is available here: https://wcupa-my.sharepoint.com/:v/g/personal/clloyd_wcupa_edu/EbYznh4FZOVpG_s49qf1WLYBRMoETdswby32ZUKAaekfKQ?e=NLKfAc

In March, Messiah's Dr. Robin Lauermann presented "Advising for Growth: Encouraging Student Curiosity and Exploration with Goal Setting." This session is available for viewing at https://livemessiah-my.sharepoint.com/:v/g/personal/spatterson_messiah_edu/ESSHvzQslk1AhXB|po4oWpYBCPcgGjZCc1QjZ9oFKDmNZg?e=l8H1W0.

A special thank you to our presenters!!!

