

*The following report was prepared by North Carolina community college students participating in the November 2006 Student Leadership Institute. Students were divided into groups and asked to brainstorm ways of improving New Student Orientation at North Carolina community colleges.*

## **Community College Orientation**

Given the topic of ways to improve New Student Orientation, we decided that focusing on making orientation more personal would be more beneficial. We believe that the purpose of orientation is to inform and familiarize new students to their new collegiate surroundings; including what to expect and what is there for them. Listed below are examples of ways this can take place.

- I. Orientation Packages
  - To be mailed prior to orientation with tentative dates
  - Detailed online orientation for those who are absolutely unable to attend
  - Include a list of frequently asked questions (i.e., parking fees, ID cards, lost and found, and school provided e-mail accounts)
  
- II. Curriculum-based Orientation
  - Break orientation down by curriculum
  - Have students who are in or have graduated from the program facilitate that orientation
  
- III. Multiple Orientation Days
  - Offer orientation at least twice a week to provide more than one chance to attend on campus orientation
  
- IV. Clubs and Other Activities
  - Have club members or advisors to explain the who's, what's, when's, where's, and why's of their clubs

We feel that policies and procedures should be covered in a shorter orientation. In our opinion, students will feel more welcome and comfortable because curriculum-based orientation is offered by their peers and is geared towards their program needs.

*(Developed by: NCCC – Student Leadership Institute participants, 11/10/2006)*

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Additional notes from focus session...

- Orientation should be more interactive
- Q&A sessions should be included
- Distribute "print" calendars
- Offer orientation by division or program area
- Identify campus resources
- Inform students of the policies and procedures in the handbook
- Provide campus tours
- Involve current students to demonstrate what campus life is all about
- Offer variety within orientation sessions; listening to administrators all day is boring
- Advisors should limit first semester students to 12-13 hours