How quickly the summer comes to an end and students return to campus! We just wrapped up our second annual Student Affairs Professional Development Conference. Over the course of two days, colleagues representing the full range of UIC Student Affairs functions committed to **Focus Forward** as we continue to reimagine the student experience. With our signature development event a tremendous success, we are now finishing preparations for Convocation, Weeks of Welcome, and the other programs and services that serve our new and returning students.

Each and every one of us in Student Affairs plays a role in the first impressions we have on new students and the continued experience and memories created by our returning students. We are responsible for making our buildings clean, vibrant, and inviting. We are responsible for engaging in campus life and building affinity to UIC. We are responsible for a nearly endless list of what defines student life at UIC.

During this new academic year, our guiding questions will be a vital tool for ensuring the delivery of transformational student-centered programs and services. These questions should influence your planning and your work:

- Are we student-centered?
- Are we building an inclusive community?
- Are we collaborative?
- Are we innovative and bold?
- Are we creating a sense of pride in UIC?

UIC Student Affairs is poised to make a dynamic impact on student life; let’s make this the best year for our students.

J. Rex Tolliver  
Vice Chancellor for Student Affairs

**VOLUNTEER OPPORTUNITIES FOR BACK-TO-SCHOOL!**

**AUGUST 23**

Campus Housing thanks you and your staff team for helping to make First Year move-in day a great experience in 2016 and invite you to volunteer this year when we welcome the First-Year residents on August 23rd.

You will be working alongside many partners throughout the university including staff in Student Affairs, Academic Affairs, Athletics and even the Chancellor!

This day is always an exciting time for the UIC Community—our First-Year residents arrive on campus with families, and hopes and dreams of the future in their hearts. As we continue to increase campus involvement, your efforts are crucial to providing support and encouragement to our students and their families during this very busy day.

Campus Housing will assign you to work at key places in the south and east residential complex helping us welcome parents and students as they arrive.

Move-in starts at 8:00AM, with the largest number of residents arriving between 9:00AM–12:00PM. We continue to see

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**IN THIS ISSUE**

- spotlight
- need to know
- in case you missed it
- shout-out to the crew
- eye candy
1. What is the mission of the Orientation Program? Our mission is to work with students and family members on helping them transition to the university and better understand the great resources that are available to them; help them understand how they can be successful at the university if they learn and know about the resources available. We also want to promote the idea of being a part of the great diverse UIC community, so we want to make sure they're spending time on campus with their fellow students.

2. How has the Orientation Program evolved over the years? Early on, programs were about 5 hours, mainly focused on advising and registration and then the students would go home and figure out what is the other great stuff available from the university. In 1990, there were 1-day programs for transfer and freshman students. Then in 1994, we developed a 2-day overnight experience that expanded the kind of information we shared with the first-year students and what we helped them become responsible for during their time here, so they could be better prepared for the star of school in the fall and beyond.

3. What is the most important feature of the Orientation Program? The most important part about Orientation is class registration. That usually happens on the first day of classes for most of the colleges, but for the Colleges of Liberal Arts and Sciences, first-year students register on the second day. Students also get a lot of information about financial aid, safety, life styles...all the pieces that it takes to be a successful student at UIC.

4. How often do you conduct Orientation sessions? We run programs throughout the summer from the end of May to mid-August. We'll have around 23 overall programs during the summer that includes 2-day overnight experiences for freshmen and 1-day programs for transfer students. In the spring semester, we'll have about 6 programs that fall in the early part of the year. We see 6000 students in the summer cycle and 800 in the spring cycle.

5. What happens during a typical Orientation session? We basically bring students together and get them comfortable with their peers and assigned to an orientation leader who is responsible for getting them to the right place at the right time. If their family joins them, there are concurrent sessions that they all experience together and other times that they break off. We get them to register for their classes on campus so they can focus on other information. We want to make sure they're comfortable in this setting at UIC, so the idea of community important.

6. What are some of the activities in the Orientation Program? We have Marketplace, an "open house" for students and parents to gather information. In this area, different offices are represented, including Financial Aid, Accounts Receivable, UIC Police, etc. We also have some social activities, especially in the 2-day overnight experience. We have students go to the recreation center, go bowling and play billiards, and we have set up a painting class. We partnered with the Center for Student Involvement and they've really taken the reigns on providing popular activities, such as the trolley rides and the escape room. In the escape room experience, we take two groups of students off campus and they come back excited about what they just experienced and how they have bonded.

7. Orientation leaders appear to be the foundation for a successful Orientation Program. What qualifications do Orientation leaders need to have and how are they selected to participate in the program? Orientation leaders are the best students we have in the school. We take everything into consideration when choosing orientation leaders because they are very important to the program. We go through a rigorous selection process, starting in October and we finish around March. We check their GPAs, we make sure they're involved on campus. We want individuals who can speak well and are really focused. Ultimately, we look for someone with passion. This is more than just a job, this is something that they want to do, to really serve.

8. How many Orientation leaders work in the department? We build a team of 25-40 Orientation leaders. We always have a few Orientation leaders that return from the previous year that we use in administrative roles with more responsibility, helping put the program together, and we build it around them as well.

9. Other than Orientation leaders, what other staff have roles in the program? We have an Orientation Task Force that meets monthly. It includes representatives from academic colleges and other services and program areas that have parts in orientation.

10. What does the UIC Orientation Program have that sets itself apart from other university orientation programs? We don't shy away from some topics that other schools may not want to focus on as much and some of that has to do with the diversity on this campus and the opportunities that exist. We start off with orientation talking about how you can both connect with individuals who are similar and different and at the same time get to know them. In dealing with campus safety, we acknowledge we are in an urban setting. Students and family hear about what happens in the city in general terms, so we want to make sure they understand how safe our campus is, but also what the students' responsibility is in making sure they are safe.

11. What successes have you had within the Orientation Program? One thing that has improved is the smoothness of the program. The orientation leaders get a lot of training. We have a 2-week training period before we actually start running programs. The orientation leaders are really prepared this year in making sure they know what's best for their students. While orientation is not mandatory, it is required by some colleges. But we see 96-98% of first-year students coming through the program. We're proud that students see the vision that it's useful to them that they're going to get something useful out of it and they'll be better prepared for the start of classes.

12. If planning for significant changes in the Orientation Program, what does the future program look like? We're developing an online orientation program for this school year. As part of the Student Success Initiative, we will be working with a vendor to develop 8 modules on different topics related to the student experience and student success. An online program may ensure that some students start to look at some information before they even arrive to campus for summer orientation. Online orientation will also be available to the rest of campus to possibly get some of their messaging out before students arrive in the summer.

13. Is there anything else that you would like to be known about the Orientation Program? Orientation is really delivered by the entire campus. We've partnered with so many different areas on campus. As the conduit for delivering orientation, our office would like to thank the different colleges, departments and programs that participate to support orientation.
residents arrive through the afternoon and need assistance throughout the day ending at 4:00PM. Plan to join us for at least 2 hours, however even an hour is helpful! Campus Housing will provide you with a Polo Shirt (unless you still have your shirt from last year) and guidelines for your task that day.

Campus Housing has a variety of jobs including the Hospitality Station providing water bottles, a T-Shirt distribution station and multiple Drop and Go Zones where we help unload cars. New this year, we will be unloading cars from Lot 9 and also utilizing sidewalks on both sides of Harrison from Halsted to the Peoria stoplight while the street is closed from 8:00AM–12:00PM.

Please contact Maria Jimenez at MJVALTI@UIC.EDU availability for the day and your shirt size if you need a polo shirt.

**AUGUST 23–31**
The ID Center thanks all of you who responded to the call for Volunteers last year Fall 2016. It was quite a success, and could not have done it without each of you. Once again, we are soliciting your help for this Fall 2017 as plans are under way to giving our students a fantastic welcome to our campus. The ID Center needs your help to distribute U-Passes on August 23, 24, 25, 28, 29, and 30.

### Conference Rooms in Student Services Building (SSB)

- **Thursday, August 24:**
  - 6 Morning Shifts (8:30AM–1:00PM)
  - 5 Afternoon Shifts (1:00PM–5:00PM)

- **Friday, August 25:**
  - 6 Morning Shifts (8:30AM–1:00PM)
  - 6 Afternoon Shifts (1:00PM–5:00PM)

- **Monday, August 28:**
  - 3 Morning Shifts (8:30AM–1:00PM)
  - 5 Afternoon Shifts (1:00PM–5:00PM)

- **Tuesday, August 29:**
  - 4 Morning Shifts (8:30AM–1:00PM)
  - 5 Afternoon Shifts (1:00PM–5:00PM)

- **Wednesday, August 30:**
  - 4 Morning Shifts (8:30AM–1:00PM)
  - 5 Afternoon Shifts (1:00PM–5:00PM)

We promise to provide you with some sustenance both outgoing shift and the incoming shift. Lunch will be provided on all days. Please sign up by contacting Corrine Holas at 312-413-5940 or CORINNEW@UIC.EDU. No special experience necessary, will train on the spot. Thanks! Looking forward to this collaboration.
SHOUT-OUT TO THE CREW

NEW HIRES
KEVIN CANE
Director of Fraternity & Sorority Life, Center for Student Involvement

PATRICK NICHOLS
Building Service Worker, Student Centers

ADAM ORDE
Events Administrator, UIC Forum

ANISHA THIGPEN
Events Administrator, UIC Forum

PROMOTIONS
PAMELA SANFORD
Building Service Supervisor, Campus Housing

EYECANDY
SHOWCASING THE CREATIVE WORK OF STUDENT AFFAIRS MARKETING & COMMUNICATIONS

SAVE THE DATE NOVEMBER 4, 2017
VETERANS DAY 3K WALK • 5K RUN

For details and groups/organizations/companies interested in sponsorship, contact Jesus Molina at jmolin6@uic.edu.

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