GLOBAL PANTHER SUCCESS PROGRAM

The GLOBAL PANTHER Success (GPS) program is led by current students known as the GPS Student Coordinators. The team works together with the International Students and Scholars Office (ISSO) to ease the transition of international students to campus as well as in living in a new country. Success topics covered during ISSO new student orientation include financial literacy, academic expectations, and resources available on campus. Throughout the semester, programs, events, and student opportunities hosted by the ISSO are posted to the ISSO website. One of the highlight events for students hosted at the end of the spring semester is the End of Term Celebrations to recognize achievements and say farewell to students moving on from UNI.

According to Isabela Varela, Director of International Students and Scholars Office at UNI, one of the stages of culture shock for some international students is an initial feeling of excitement. She describes this as the “honeymoon” phase. This might be overwhelmed by feelings such as homesickness or confusion in navigating a different educational system than they were previously exposed to. Isabela continuously encourages her students to ask for help when they need it, to be open to experiences, and to remember their purpose and why they are here. She reminds all faculty and staff that each student is unique—from an individual, educational, and cultural perspective—in their own way. For some international students, the language barrier is one of the reasons for social, cultural, and academic challenges. Being aware of cultural differences—such as the way in which you greet a student—is also important for effective advising interactions. Shaking hands may seem like a normal way of greeting another person; however, for some cultures this may not be an acceptable way of welcoming that student (especially between different genders).

As with any advisee that you work with, you should be keen to notice and be aware of any changes in behavior of the student (for example: missing classes, doing poorly in tests, etc.). “Like any direct and use simple language” is an advising tip from Isabela when working with international students. Strategies outlined by Guo (2016) when working with international students include:

- **Build Trust**: so that the students are able to open up to you and comfortable sharing their concerns.
- **Listen**: and let students finish without interruption.
- **Communication**: help build the student’s academic language.
- **Sensitivity**: and provide reassurance in building self-confidence.
- **Advising Style**: clearly structure your guidance and provide clarity on how to do things in a step-by-step manner.
- **Encourage Students**: to engage in faculty interaction and with other resources on campus.

See other tips for understanding and working with International Students on the Office of International Programs website.

Please feel free to contact Isabela Varela (319-273-6421 / 113 Maucker Union) about any international students that may be struggling in need of assistance, or if you have additional questions or information needs on working with our international student populations.

OTHER NEWS AND EVENTS

**MIDWESTONE ACADEMIC ADVISING AWARD**

Do you know an outstanding faculty academic advisor at UNI? If so, you’d like to nominate them for the Midwestone Academic Advising Award. Nominations are now being accepted for this award, which recognizes outstanding advising and advising teams for students through Friday, February 14, 2020 by 4:30 p.m. The award is presented through the Office of Academic Advising.

Nominations will be evaluated on a range of criteria, including demonstrated evidence to the quality of advising, academic excellence in advising, and the following:

- **Scheduling / Registration and Progress Towards Degree**
- **Advising on academic progression, academic preparation, program requirements, major, and graduation requirements**
- **Professional Development and Promotion of Advising**
- **Advising on academic progress, co-curricular activities, and non-course activities**
- **Advising faculty theses or capstone projects**
- **Advising students who are participating in other enrichment opportunities**
- **Student Success (Faculty) and Environments:** hard and devoted advisors, reaching students in self-efficiency for successful career and job finding tasks, motivators, problems solving, peaceable counseling, planning and post-planning, personal counseling, and student support.

**Global Panther Success (GPS)**

- **Global Panther Success (GPS)**: a downloadable pdf file of the nomination form can be downloaded from the GPS link on the Office of International Students and Scholars Office (ISSO) website.

**Follow the Office of Academic Advising!**

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