Creating Belonging Among First-Year Students

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Learning Outcomes

• Participants will learn how belonging is a key aspect of a student’s retention

• Understand how key programs and offices at Oklahoma State University contribute to a student belonging
Dr. Terrell L. Strayhorn- Student Success and Retention

– “Fitting in” key to staying in college
– Sense of belonging – Basic human need
– Students matter
• Cowboy Family: Orientation, Retention, and Transition

• “Extended orientation activities such as overnight programs, 3-day summer camps, and welcome week activities allow students to feel a sense of belonging at their institution” (NODA Journal- Spring 2013).
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Identity

• “Identity question based on gender, sexual orientation, race, disability, and other factors may challenge first-year students to think through who they really are, because continuing identity confusion can lead to great personal and academic dysfunction.” (Upcraft, Gardner, & Barefoot, 2005, p.8)

• Belonging is experienced by different students in different ways, influenced heavily by their sense of identity