

Welcome Mat Extended to 2,300 New Students

Do you remember your WCU Orientation? Can you think back and recall how you were feeling that day – maybe excited, anxious, eager, or a bit overwhelmed? Or maybe all of the above?

Chances are the 2,300 students who participated in New Student Orientation last month were experiencing the same range of emotions as they began their journey as Golden Rams. Students and their families could choose from one of eight, day-long sessions in June. Topics covered included residence life and commuter life, an overview of academics, student involvement at WCU, computer services, financial aid, and career development services.

This year's format provided more information about general education requirements than previous years, says Jared Brown, director of New Student Programs. In addition, a greater emphasis was placed on how to use WCU student resources, including the Counseling Center, Health Center, Women's Center, Career Development Office, Registrar, Bursar, and the Learning Assistance and Resource Center.

Ninety-five percent of all attendees surveyed at the conclusion of their orientation said that the program helped them feel more prepared to begin their college careers. Information about WCU is invaluable but meeting other new Golden Rams is even more important. More than 50% of all students said that the opportunity to connect with other new students was what they liked most about New Student Orientation. Attending their academic advising session and the residence life session came in second and third.

The June sessions were designed for incoming first-year students. Orientation sessions for transfer students and non-traditional students will be held in August.

Meet the Newest Golden Rams!

First-year students will move in to WCU residence halls on Friday, Aug. 26. Alumni are encouraged to give a warm welcome to our newest Golden Rams by lending a hand at Move-In Day 2016. Sign up for an hour, a half-day or the entire day. I'll be helping out, and look forward to meeting you there. To register, email Corey Thesen at cthesen@ushcommunities.org.