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Academic Affairs Update August 15, 2017

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Academic Affairs Weekly Update | August 15

Office of Academic Affairs

Tue 8/15/2017 1:33 PM

To: Campus Communication <campus-communication@plymouth.edu>;

Dear Colleagues:

Nearly 40 faculty and staff gathered August 8-10th for a Collaborative Leadership Institute delivered by Academic Impressions. This 3-day institute brought together members of the President's Transition Leadership Team, faculty & staff speakers, faculty involved in cluster leadership design, curriculum committee, FY Seminar & Gen Ed, along with staff members in Student Affairs, Marketing & Communication, and Administrative Support. This was a hands-on workshop in meeting design. You'll see some of these new skillsets demonstrated during University Days, Cluster Day, and your departmental retreats.

We brought Academic Impressions to campus as we see the benefit of enhanced collaboration brought about by intentional meeting design and facilitation. With such excitement and value discussed about the training, we will gather the participants again in early September to explore ways to share the tools and skills learned. Key lessons learned and takeaways participants expressed were:

- Thoughtful and deliberate meeting designs allow for achievement of purpose and engagement
- Purposeful design requires time and thought
- Get data from people in the room and use it
- Engage and honor all voices in the room
- Clear purpose and transparent outcomes
- Importance of diversity, getting all constituents together
- Models explored are a suggestion, can be customized
- Variety of tools to get multiple perspectives
- "Meetings don't need to suck"

We will continue to look for ways to invest in people and support lifelong learning at PSU. University Days is an opportunity to continue learning through interactive sessions offered by colleagues and guests. The Center for Transformation, along with Campus Events, MCCS, and a planning team comprised of faculty and staff have created an exciting 3-day conference. We ask that you [register here](#) asap; be sure to register for lunch and breaks so we can plan for the right amount of food. On Wednesday, August 23rd, there will be a family Panther Picnic at 4:30 p.m. Families are invited; we hope they can attend! Friday concludes at noon with appetizers and a tour of Merrill Place.

Cluster Day is August 28th. It begins with a kick-off in Silver Center at 9:00 a.m. followed by cluster-designed meetings. Meeting leaders will share more specific information, but plan to spend the day engaged with colleagues of the other programs located within your cluster. More details should be coming directly from them. View more details about University Days and Cluster Day [here](#).

Finally, renovations across campus continue. Renovation of the lecture halls in Hyde Hall are ongoing and slated for completion before students arrive. The one-stop shop for student services in Speare Hall is underway and will be completed in late September. The parking lot and rear-entrance of Speare is closed off to accommodate construction vehicles.

We hope you're enjoying these last couple of weeks of summer and share our excitement as we prepare to welcome our students back to campus!

Sincerely,

The Academic Dean Team