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The Division of Student Life at the University of Iowa is excited to incorporate *Connections Are Everything: A College Student's Guide to Relationship-Rich Education* (Felten et al., 2023) into our Student Organization Development Day. The Student Organization Development Day is held annually for leaders of registered student organizations and student shared governance. The training is designed to equip new and returning student organization leaders with the tools to be successful in achieving their student organizations' respective missions.

Felten et al.'s work will enhance the current curriculum and leadership training by serving as a common read and an application tool to increase confidence among student leaders, provide an opportunity for dialogue regarding challenges, build community through shared understanding and goal setting, and strengthen morale during a time when student engagement is waning. Participating students will be able to develop action plans for their student organizations, including recruitment, learning and development, and community building. Students will be given the book in advance of the training and will participate in small group dialogues during Student Organization Development Day.

Student leaders will be asked to consider these questions prior to attending the training:

1. How do peer and professor relationships contribute to students' academic, personal, and professional development? Come prepared to share examples and observations from your experiences.
2. What role can the "relationship accelerators" such as internships, mentorships, undergraduate research, and campus employment, play in assisting students in creating good and strategic relationships?
3. Why are connections and relationships particularly important for students of color and first-generation students in higher education? How can these relationships positively impact their college experience and support their success?
4. Reflect on the statement that higher education cannot achieve equity, justice, and inclusion without relationship-rich education. What are your thoughts on this perspective? How can relationship-rich education contribute to creating a more inclusive and equitable learning environment?

During Student Organization Development Day, students will reflect on the questions above, then work in small groups focusing specifically on Chapter 3 "You Have What It Takes." This chapter aligns with the student leader training curriculum, enabling students to think critically about their leadership and strengths, their organization and members, and their role in creating meaningful opportunities and experiences for their peers. The small group dialogue will include:

- Discuss the experiences of Gigi, the student at the University of Washington, and other college students who have struggled with feelings of imposter syndrome and insecurity.
- a. How did these feelings impact their college experience and their ability to form meaningful relationships?
 - b. What can you do as students to ensure you and your peers are overcoming feelings of imposter syndrome?

How can students exercise agency to create a meaningful and transformative college experience?

- a. Share examples of how students in the reading utilized their agency to connect with peers, faculty, and resources.
- b. What ways would you encourage your peers to utilize their agency when working in a leadership role on campus?

The chapter highlights the importance of recognizing and leveraging one's strengths in college.

- a. Why is it sometimes difficult for students to recognize their own strengths?
- b. How can you explore and identify your strengths to support your success in college?
- c. How can you assist your peers in doing the same?
- d. Discuss the role of advisors, peers, and personal reflection in this process.

Discuss ways that the reading supports student organization leadership and how you can incorporate what you have learned into creating plans for your organization & your members this academic year.

Student leaders will receive a follow up survey shortly after Student Organization Development Day to assess the program and reflect further on how they will incorporate aspects of the training into their leadership and their student organization. Reflection questions directly related to *Connections Are Everything: A College Student's Guide to Relationship-Rich Education* will be added to the survey to ensure students continue to engage with the content and consider how to leverage their strengths, develop relationship-rich experiences, and create meaningful opportunities for their peers and their student organizations. Student leaders will also be provided the opportunity to sign up for monthly conversations with staff and advisors to discuss how to incorporate lessons learned from the reading into their student organization. Leaders of our professionally advised organizations will have monthly discussions with their staff advisors.

We are excited for the opportunity to embed *Connections Are Everything: A College Student's Guide to Relationship-Rich Education* into our student leader training. We are grateful for Dr. Felten's partnership and support through the years and look forward to sharing this work with our students.

Sarah Hansen
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