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Leadership in College: Students' Expectations and Values

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Poster Presentation P40

LEADERSHIP IN COLLEGE: STUDENTS' EXPECTATIONS AND VALUES

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Knowing students' expectations of college can help to predict what their attitudes towards leadership and involvement are prior to stepping foot on a collegiate campus. Routinely measuring and analyzing this information can help current campus orientation, residential life, and first year colloquium services target their programs to best fit the needs of the incoming students.

This project measures incoming and current first year college students' expectations, values, and leadership styles, against the same expectations, values, and leadership styles. By quantifying high school leadership training, personal ideals about leadership styles, predicted/actual on campus leadership behaviors and demographic information, we can explore the potentially differing leadership training expectations and needs in new IWU students. Ultimately, the goal of this project is to analyze these factors longitudinally to better study the dynamic changes that occur in an incoming first year student, from before they step on campus and until the end of their first year of college. Possessing this data will potentially provide student services personnel with a guide for tailoring their first year programs to best match the expectations and values of the first year students and thus helping to positively encourage and shape their involvement patterns and leadership opportunities.