



FIRST2 NETWORK

FIRST2 NETWORK CHANGE IDEA EXPERIENCE



HIGHLIGHTED CHANGE IDEA

A movie called Jim Alison; Breakthrough was put together for WVU STEM students to encourage STEM students to build interconnected community and college experiences in ways that promote belonging (fit), wellness, and resilience, through the streaming of a movie. This was meant to help student distress and refresh their energy before finals.

PLAN

To carry out this effort, we designed posters, flyers, and advertised through information stations. STEM students as well as Women's and Gender Studies students were also reached to get a broader audience. This activity sought to measure and improve student belongingness to their STEM community as well as engage in activities that build relationships with their faculty and peers.

DO

A movie was put together and advertised across campus, due to weather and other unforeseen circumstances, the student turnout was not what we expected. Out of the 100 students we were expecting, about 18 students showed up.

A qualtrics survey was created for students to complete before and after the movie to get an idea of their sense of belonging in their STEM community.

Extra credit was given to students to attend the movie, (rather than writing a paper) and most students chose that option.

We also didn't have a large enough budget to provide the food and drinks we wanted.

STUDY

Some learning questions we considered were;

- LQ1. How many students will be reached or show up?
- LQ2. How many students will like the change idea and think it should be done again?
- LQ3. How many students will engage in the activity?
- LQ4. How many students will report a more sense of belonging after the activity?
- LQ5. How many students will report feeling close with faculty after activity?

An interesting fact about the student population that showed up was that even though it was a small group, they liked the change idea.

All students engaged in the change idea reported wanting more informal activities. Also, more students reported a stronger sense of belonging after the activity.

SUMMARY

This change idea was to bring STEM students closer to their STEM community, and through this informal activity we were able to gauge the difference between their sense of belonging prior to the activity and after the activity. Data from this activity strongly suggests that the students that participated like informal activities like this one, so we think that more informal activities should be integrated into the STEM community.

PHOTO HIGHLIGHTS



TIPS FOR OTHER INSTITUTIONAL TEAMS

Set more informal activities for students to participate in. As the data shows, many students reported that they enjoy interacting with others in a non-academic setting, as well as they were not reluctant to suggest ideas or activities to plan another informal activity. Get students integrated into their STEM community so they feel like they belong.

ACT

ADOPT/ADAPT: I would like there to be more informal activities to help students integrate into, or feel more comfortable in, their STEM community.

DATA



DISCUSSION & CONCLUSION

We feel like this movie was a good opportunity for students to de-stress and feel more integrated into their STEM community. The students loved the movie and reported feeling a sense of comfort and belonging to their community. More informal activities such as these might further improve student-faculty and student-student relationships. We were worried because we did not get as many students as we expected, but the students that did attend reported liking the activity; nobody reported not liking the activity. With this activity many reported feeling more supported and comforted in their STEM community.



The First2 Network is supported by the U.S. National Science Foundation under Award Numbers: HRD-1834586, WV Higher Education Policy Commission; HRD-1834601, Green Bank Observatory; HRD-1834575, Fairmont State University; HRD-1834586, High Rocks Educational Corporation; HRD-1834569, West Virginia University.



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