

Edison State offers special program for freshmen

All four campuses of Edison State College are now offering a program called First Year Experience to help freshmen students acclimate to college life in a more seamless manner. The program consists of a three-credit hour elective seminar course called "Cornerstone Experience." Students also have the opportunity to work with peer mentors throughout the year and attend workshops, events and community activities.

According to Edison's First Year Experience's website, www.edison.edu/fye, the mission of the program is to empower each student through academic and co-curricular support systems, giving them the tools they need to be successful in their studies as they become more involved and comfortable on campus.



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Whitney Rhyme, coordinator for the program, said she's excited to part of the program.

"I think the first year is critical to students' success," Rhyme said. "Students who are connected and engaged on campus do better academically and persist at higher rates."

Being prepared for the college experience and knowing what resources are available to students can make the difference between good grades and

academic failure.

The "Cornerstone Experience" discusses topics such as selecting occupations and majors, habits that lead to success, learning styles, time management, goal setting, note-taking tips, test-taking strategies and the how-tos of technology.

The mentors, called "Peer Architects," are student leaders who act as mentors for first-year students, having already earned associates degrees and are currently working toward their bachelor's degrees. The mentors are assigned to a specific section of the class, are available to meet with students individually and help facilitate the various first-year events.

Workshops, events and community activities, such as yoga classes, nature walks and "Tech Tuesday," a technology focused workshop, are some of

the perks of the program. The various activities are provided to encourage students to try something new and meet new people. Also, there are fun-filled summer game days, and campuses plan "Service Saturday" events once a month during the fall and spring semesters as a way to get students out in the community.

"This past academic year, students in the FYE program volunteered over 1,050 hours at Habitat for Humanity, Imaginarium, Harry Chapin Food Band and the Southwest Florida Reading Festival," Rhyme stated.

Each campus offers specific programming to support students both inside and outside the classroom.

For more information about what's going on at the Punta Gorda location, 26300 Airport Road, send an email to fye@edison.edu or call 941-637-5647.