Advising African American Students

Some Suggestions for Advising African American Students:

**Look at attending Institutions of Higher Education from another Perspective**
Institutions of higher education have their own language and as a result, we need to explain terms that we find quite familiar. For example, some students don’t know how long a semester is or the difference between a matriculated and non-matriculated status. To better understand what students are experiencing, you might think of it as someone conversing to you in a language in which you have little proficiency.

**Understand the Digital Divide and Develop Strategies to Overcome It**
This world has become very technological; however, some of the students who attend a community college may not have experienced computer technology at the level faculty members feel is needed to pursue higher education. It is important for faculty members to know and refer students to various campus and community resources e.g., Un-schedule, community centers, etc. which assist students in developing these skills. Also, it could be beneficial to include the computer skills needed in your course outline (e.g. sending managing e-mail accounts, word, power point, and excel).

**Develop a Case Management Strategy**
Some students who attend institutions of higher education are not self-starters in areas where they lack confidence. You might give students a call to see how their semester is going and to encourage them to contact you if they receive a Mid-Semester Warning letter. Documenting your advisement sessions and other pertinent contacts is recommended. It is equally important for you to make comments in the Advisement notes section on the Course Advisement Worksheet.

**Develop an Advisement Philosophy**
According to some of the research, advising is not clearly defined nor bound by specific contractual procedures. And while it is impossible for you to be an expert in every curriculum, developing professional ethics as it relates to advisement will assist you with your academic duties. Engaging in workshops and keeping abreast with the various services that can contribute to a student’s success as well as your own is crucial.

**Literature on Advising African (Minority/Multicultural) Students**


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