

K-1 Connection Matrix-Don Shaffer

Connecting students to activities and mentors on campus has been shown to increase student achievement and success time and time again. A simple yet effective project available is to create a "Connection Matrix".

By listing all students and then correlating any co-curricular activity or mentoring opportunity they may be in on campus will expose students that have no on-campus connection. As those students are identified, staff members have the opportunity to match up with students that may or may not be in their classes and create positive interactions with those students through existing or the development of new co-curricular events outside of the classroom.

The connection can be as complex as being a team member on a competitive team to as simple as having the students stop by for a "check-in" once a week in the mentor's classroom.