

**Subject:** Monday Matters - Student Resources  
**Date:** Monday, August 30, 2021 at 8:02:05 AM Eastern Daylight Time  
**From:** Dodge, Gail  
**To:** Dodge, Gail  
**CC:** Whitfield, Tiffany L., Wallach, Josh  
**Attachments:** P1033226.JPG

Dear Colleagues:

It is exciting to see campus come alive again with students. On Saturday we held the first College Connection event as part of the Monarch Experience activities for new students. Please see the photo attached. First and second year students were invited to visit the college from 1 to 3 pm. They spent the first hour with their new departments and the 2<sup>nd</sup> hour was available for a Planetarium show and browsing informational tables. Please do everything you can to encourage students to engage with their department by joining student clubs and attending other department activities.

As classes begin I want to remind you again about resources that are available to students.

**A one stop shop for all student support is the [Student Outreach & Support office](#).** You can refer students to this office for any problem and SOS will connect them to the right place. I urge you to look at the SOS website to see the list of signs of student distress and other resources. You can refer a student for help by emailing [oducares@odu.edu](mailto:oducares@odu.edu). They will reach out to the student right away. Often when a student lets me know that he/she is struggling I suggest that they contact [oducares@odu.edu](mailto:oducares@odu.edu) and I copy oducare on that email. I cannot stress enough how important this resource is for our students, no matter what problem they are experiencing, including homelessness and food insecurity.

Last year Josh Wallach compiled available student resources on the College of Sciences web page at:

<https://www.odu.edu/sci/student-success>

The site includes all university resources broken down into tabs for Academic Resources, Tutoring and Mentoring, Counseling and Wellness Services, and Other Success Resources.

As you know, our entering freshmen are coming to us with more than one year of badly interrupted learning in high school. Our sophomores did most of their first year of college remotely and may be coming to campus now for the first time. Our transfer students are similarly affected. Our goal should be to engage with our students, connect them with peers/faculty/department, and encourage them to make the most of their college experience. I ask that we all respond to students the way that we hope our own kids would be treated when they are away at college – with kindness and empathy.

I hope everyone has a rewarding and productive semester ahead. Thank you for persisting through the continuing uncertainty and for helping keep everyone safe by complying with vaccine and mask requirements.

Best Regards,  
Gail

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