REGIONAL LEADERSHIP CONFERENCE
REGION VI

All I want is A’s

Reach Your Highest Peak.
The NSBE Mission is to increase the number of culturally responsible Black engineers who excel academically, succeed professionally, and positively impact the community.
“Working Smarter, Not Just Harder” by Karl Reid
1. The Attitude Shift
The Attitude Shift

• College challenges your sense of smartness
• What matters is how you respond to the challenge
• You have to want to work smarter
• Understand intelligence is expandable
The Attitude Shift

• You can get smarter by applying yourself

• “I must get better and I will” (adopt this mindset)

• Pick yourself up once you feel inferior

• Never be overconfident. Make a realistic self-appraisal
The Attitude Shift

• Embrace your effort

• Mistakes and setbacks are info to learn from

• You have to be willing to fall to learn to ride

• Never say “I’m not good at it.” Instead you should say “I’m not good at it Yet”
2. The Connections Shift
i. Make Connections with Faculty

- Before meeting with prof. study his bio and make a personal connection, talk about it in office hours
- Visit your professor and TA at least once a week for both
- Never miss an exam review
ii. Make Connections with Administrators

- Reach out to key administrators
  - Director of Engineering or CS
- Get to know the tutoring and writing centers on campus
- Find one or more mentors
iv. Make your Study Group Effective

• Use your study group to pitch and debate topics for future work

• Study alone, then in a group, then alone

• Set a specific day and time to meet at least two days prior to the assignment due date

• Invite no more than 4 or 5 members
3. The Behavior Shift
The Behavior Shift - Goals

- Set S.M.A.R.T Goals at the beginning of the semester both for the semester and for your time in college
- Share your goals with others
- Revisit and revise your goals
S.M.A.R.T. GOALS

Specific (What?)
Measureable
Attainable (How?)
Relevant
Time-based (When?)
The Behavior Shift

• Prioritize your basic needs – “To Live,” “To Love,” “To Learn,” “To Leave a Legacy” – and schedule them first in your weekly calendar.

• Harness your time by the semester, by the week, and by the day.

• Prepare for class, take active notes during class, start your homework as soon as possible after class.
The Behavior Shift - Studying for Exams

1. Find a location to study
2. Schedule your exam prep ahead of time
3. Two (or more) days before the exam, make sure you understand the concepts
4. One or more days before the exam, focus on problem-solving
5. Get sufficient sleep
General Suggestions
Some General Suggestions

- Calendar app
- Get sleep!
- Eat balanced meals
- Avoid carbohydrate overload (loopy)
- Easy on caffeine
- Keep room clean
- Maximize peak efficiency
What to do **before** class?
- Review class notes for next class
- Do the reading

What to do **during** class?
- Sit front and center
- Take cornell style notes
- Ask questions!!!!

What to do **after** class?
- Summarize notes
- Start hw early
- Discuss lecture
Harnessing Time by Semester

• Collect syllabi
• Record dates in planner
• Identify crunch week
• Understand course learning objectives

Harnessing Time by Week

• Post deadlines
• Prepare daily to-do list
• See TA/professor
Programs & Resources
Retention Program

1. Study Hall
2. Skill Development Workshop
3. Mentorship

more info
End Results of Retention Program

**Skill Development workshops that lead to:**
Better study & time management skills  
Project management skills  
Stress Management  
Academic goal setting  
Increased academic confidence

**Academic Mentoring Relationships that lead to:**
Better course planning  
Increased knowledge of academic career building opportunities  
Better knowledge of academic resources

**Study Halls that lead to:**
Increased homework and test scores  
Increased conceptual gain of material  
Better retention of material long term
GPA Verifications

- NSBE connect
  - Enter GPA
    - Advisor will verify and confirm
- If no advisor
  - Send me an email
APEx

You need GPA verified:
- Excel: 3.0 – 3.19
- Torchbearer: 3.2 – 3.59
- Honors: 3.6+
Great Resources!!!!

4.0 Guarantee
libgen.io
Khan Academy (Stem-Related Subject)
Youtube (General Subject)
Paul’s Notes (Math Subject)
Academic Tech Bowl
Technical Research Exhibit
Links for following program & competitions

Sign up:
- Retention Program
- Academic Tech Bowl
- Technical Research Exhibit
Questions?

Contact Info:
Bilal Said - R6 Academic Excellence Chair
r6aex@nsbe.org