Belonging – Student transition

Curtin AHEAD and tertiary affinity: Establishing a sense of belonging among those transitioning into higher education

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Abstract:
In addition to the outreach work conducted by Curtin AHEAD, the team are contributing to the latest research in the fields of outreach and transitioning students into higher education, particularly individuals from backgrounds traditionally not represented in higher education.

In 2015, Charles Flodin and Cameron Thorn published a research paper demonstrating the necessity of establishing Tertiary-affinity among prospective students, in order for them to successfully transition to the higher education arena.

Tertiary-affinity is a vehicle through which to informally raise aspirations, awareness and capability of higher education, and involves planting the seed of both academic and social belonging in order to allow an individual to successfully transition into the higher education environment. Furthermore it gives students a voice to feel not only able, but also comfortable to contribute within the higher education environment. It is a concept embedded within all Curtin AHEAD projects, which has been used to great success and seen in examples such as the Row AHEAD program.