

2020 Dorm Student Nandagikendan (Seek to Learn) Academy





Despite COVID, the New and Returning Student Academy was held to support students that chose to live in the dorms. While most of the content was conducted virtually through D2L (Brightspace), there were in-person activities each day to connect students with their peers and with staff and faculty on campus. New students who attended the academy were retained at the same rate as those who did not attend the academy. However, Native students who attended the academy at a rate of 83% while those who did not attend were retained at a rate of 59%. Female students who attended the academy were retained at a rate of 78% while those who did not attend were retained at a rate of 66%.

Eight of the eleven returning students that participated in the Returning Student Academy also attended the New Student Academy in 2019. The retention for all returning students who participated in the academy was 100%, even when examining Black students, Native students, males, and females independently. Retention for all students who did not attend the academy was 70% and was only 60% and 66%, respectively, for Native American students and for male students that did not attend the academy.

Though COVID presented challenges in the delivery of the academy, the academy was successful in supporting students and retaining students as they continued from fall 2020 semester to spring 2021 semester in both the new and returning students.





