Building community among FYE students during the pandemic
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PROJECT SUMMARY

Building community is key for student’s success and retention in college. New FYE students don’t have those connections in place. During Fall 2020, we put in place a variety of activities/resources for FYE students to find each other and to find relevant information to be successful.

We engaged students in a total of 14 activities and had an FYE community site for FYE students, advisers, faculty, and staff to connect.

We were able to make a difference in the college experience of the FYE students that participated in the activities and Brightspace site.

PROJECT IMPACT

PROJECT DETAILS

Some of the activities/resources that we put together were:

- **Brightspace FYE Community site** to advertise activities and information, and as a site for students to connect – About 1,600 FYE students actively accessed the site.
- **7 FYE Social Hour sessions** in Zoom and GatherTown, hosted by staff and led by FYE students. 45 to 5 students at a time.
- **5 Zumba sessions** run by ENE faculty member, in partnership with the CoRec. 35 to 8 students at a time.
- **2 Final exam review sessions** in partnership with MEP.

FUTURE PLANS

We will continue to provide activities/resources during Spring 2021:

- **Brightspace FYE Community site**
- **FYE social hour** - Emphasis on bringing FYE and other CoE students together
- **FYE online experience learning community** – to engage online students
  - 1-credit course ENGR-10301
  - Support of ENE faculty member and GTA.
- **Challenges** for FYE students to be together, such as 5K run.