

The Institute for Learning and Teaching

L2 Learners Task Force



5. Which of these elements are currently available at CSU?

Academic

- A rigorous **Intensive English Program**
- **Writing support** for international undergraduates through international sections of CO150 (Jenny Levin and Rachel Dedyne have added some excellent language development elements in their sections of CO 150)
- **Grammar consultation service** for international student writers (Jenny Levin and Rachel Dedyne in the English Department) – although this service has been available, we are not sure whether it is currently available and if it can be supported over the long-term.
- **TILT Academic Skills Workshops**— TILT currently offers the following Academic Skills workshops which are available to all students and might be helpful to this population. Heather Landers, who runs the programs commented that she often has international students in attendance. Group Workshops include: time management, notetaking, secrets of successful students (talking with your prof., etc.), memory and concentration, learning styles, test-taking strategies, test anxiety, presentation and speaking skills, active learning techniques, and critical reading in the sciences and liberal arts.
- **TILT Tutoring Programs**—Additionally, in the tutoring hall, Heather is piloting peer-tutoring as well as the existing discipline-specific group tutoring. CSU College of Engineering offers workshops through its mandatory **Professional Learning Institute**. Topics covered include ethics, professionalism, etc. Might be a vehicle for a pilot program targeting L2/international students.
- CSU IEP has a similar course that focuses on research writing – 501.
- **TILT offers a graduate teaching certificates program** which could be more heavily promoted to ITAs and departments.
- TILT offers a Master Teacher Initiative program. Perhaps an L-2 session there?
- Session could be offered at PDI.
- CSU has started a counseling group for L2 folks in the Counseling Center
- The comment was made that students may choose from Speech Communication or JTC 300 which focuses on technical writing. Should students, especially in engineering and natural sciences, be required or encouraged to take JTC 300?
- Better communication about enrollment projections and academic advising regarding the ESL sections of CSU were recommended. Two sections are offered per semester currently, an increase due to Middle Eastern undergraduate growth. With growth of Chinese students projected, perhaps this needs to be reviewed.

Transitions

- **New International Student Orientation**—mandatory to all new international students; provides useful information to help students better adjust to life while studying at Colorado State. Topics include immigration regulations, U.S. American Classroom (GPA Calculations, course set up,

expectations of classroom behavior, academic integrity, safety in the U.S., health, cultural adjustment, involvement, and a resource fair)

- **Cultural Mentors**—U.S. American and International volunteers who help lead new international student orientation and aid new international students with their transition to CSU. The function of Cultural Mentors is to act as peer advisors to international students in order to help them transition and adjust to life here. In addition, the Cultural Mentors assume the role as a resource to these students and model positive behavior appropriate to the University and civil regulations. Moreover, the Cultural Mentors chosen to lead this program serve as a cultural liaison to the international student population. They are responsible for helping international students acclimate to the life and culture of Colorado State University and the greater Fort Collins community.
- **International Friends**— (Fort Collins International Center) Community adults, both singles and families, are paired with foreign students and scholars according to mutual interests. This program provides the opportunity to make friends from all over the world. Hosts do not provide housing; instead, hosts provide hospitality that makes an international newcomer's stay in Fort Collins memorable.
- **Conversational English Classes**—(Fort Collins International Center) two free conversational English classes are offered to the CSU and Fort Collins communities. Weekly classes during the academic year offer help with language skills, insight into U.S. customs, and a place to share cultural experiences. Classes are open for both students and scholars and for men and women. Prior registration is not necessary.
- **Day In The Mountains**—Every semester, students from Colorado State University are invited to interact with students from across the globe at the Day in the Mountains retreat. A majority of the international students who attend the retreat have just arrived in the United States for the first time, and are still in the process of acclimating to American culture. This retreat serves as an extension of the International Student Orientation Program and is highly encouraged of all new international students as a way to overcome culture shock and relieve stress.
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Social

- **Friday Afternoon Club**—a CSU tradition for over 20 years! FAC meets weekly and connect with our international community, learn about special activities or volunteer opportunities, and engage in new friendships from around the world in this relaxed, social setting. All ages and backgrounds are welcome - from families to students to faculty to retirees and more - it's a world community that will keep you coming back! FAC's are free and open to the Fort Collins community.
- **International Tea**—engage in conversation with people from around the world the last Thursday of the month.
- **International Student Organizations**—25 student organizations that represent their countries or cultures or languages.
- **Outdoor Activities**—(Fort Collins International Center) provides an active and fun environment for students and community members to enjoy the beauty of Colorado and surrounding states on occasion together. Activities vary from hiking and skiing to snow-shoeing and river rafting trips.