

Student Life

BAYLOR STUDENT LIFE SPOTLIGHT

June 7, 2024

Dear Dough-vision Colleagues,

As you're all well aware, today is National Donut Day! Since it falls on a Fried-Day and we don't think it would be right to miss this important international holiday, we're going to continue the celebration by giving away "hole foods" on Monday next week.

Stop by the VPSL office in the SLC to grab some complimentary donuts and coffee Monday morning!

This summer in *Spotlight*, we'll take some deeper dives and include some guest writers to provide unique viewpoints on the important work we do in Student Life at Baylor.

For our first summer edition, Tom Barnard, *Associate Director for Outreach & Engagement*, shares about the importance of the work done by our New Student Programs team and all of Student Life through Orientation and Baylor Line Camp.

Here's Tom:

Building a Firm Foundation

Yesterday afternoon, I had the opportunity to hop on a bus and volunteer with our New Student Programs team for a trip out to Independence, Texas, with Group 2 of Baylor Line Camp. Even after eight years here at Baylor, I am still blown away by how impactful that experience is for not only our students, but as a staff member.

After three days of combined Orientation and Line Camp, our new freshmen and transfer students are still operating on a magical mix of nerves and excitement that is never more evident than when riding a bus to Independence with them.

Once in Baylor's original hometown, our new students learn about the university's history. More importantly, the trip allows Baylor Line Campers a very tangible moment to visualize themselves no longer as outsiders, but as important members of the Baylor Line. This experience is the connecting point for them between our university's past and its future, shifting each present group of Bears into the family through a ceremony that is often emotional for both the incoming students and our NSP student leaders.

If you haven't experienced an Independence trip firsthand (or need a reminder), I'd encourage you to watch a one-minute video that I put together on the bus ride home last night. Click the image below to watch it.



Having a couple-hour trip home on a bus also allows for time to reflect on both the impact of these programs and of our own work. It is a reminder that the work that we do in Student Life is quite literally changing the world by equipping the next generation.

Obviously, this is the time of year when we should rightfully celebrate and partner with our friends in [New Student Programs](#). They spearhead these amazing experiences for our new students. Throughout the academic year, they also pour into student leaders who are in full force during Orientation and Line Camp, making each and every incoming student feel "not like an outsider, but like Baylor was always their home... that they just needed to get here for our family to be complete." These student leaders embody the Immortal Ten sentiment of "for they are the we of us" in the heart that they pour into our new students.

Last night, I was also reminded how broad our summer programs stretch across the division and the university. [Dr. Kim Scott](#) and Dr. Alan Lefever are making many trips out to Independence this summer. Staff from across our division and the entire university are volunteering and presenting important information through Orientation that set our students up for success. From [Dr. Kevin Jackson](#) and [Dr. Sharra Hynes](#) opening new sessions to [Dakota Farquhar-Caddell](#) and [Roz Sabella](#) presenting at McLane Stadium to [Meghan Becker](#) and [Dr. Jim Marsh](#) speaking to all the parents, to [Dr. Burt Burleson](#) and [his team](#) leading our new students in the class hymn, the work is immense and shared, important and impactful. And those are just the folks I can remember off the top of my head. I know there are many more.

But why are these programs and this work so important? Because they lay a foundation for our students' success during their academic years at Baylor.

First- to Second-Year Retention of Attendees

Population	Fall 2019 to 2020	Fall 2020 to 2021	Fall 2021 to 2022	Fall 2022 to 2023
Attended Only Orientation	86.4%	85.2%	88.4%	87.3%
Attended Only Line Camp	98.0%	84.6%	90.3%	93.6%
Attended Both	92.9%	91.9%	92.6%	93.0%
Attended Neither	83.3%	71.9%	84.4%	80.9%
All	90.7%	88.3%	90.2%	90.6%

Take a look at that dark green line. Students who attend Orientation and Baylor Line Camp retain at a rate of 93 percent from their first- to second-year at Baylor. If you aren't aware, that is a statistic that almost every university in the world would find enviable.

I am so appreciative of the opportunity to ride out to Independence with our students. It reminds me why we do what we do. Thank you to [NSP](#) for leading our entire division during these summer months, and for providing the foundation upon which our students will build four years of success.

To learn more about Baylor Orientation and Line Camp programs, click [HERE](#). The Orientation/BLC schedule for the summer is:

Orientation + Baylor Line Camp Combined Sessions

Session	Dates	Days
Session 1	June 3 - 7	Monday - Friday
Session 2	June 4 - 8	Tuesday - Saturday
Session 3	June 10 - 14	Monday - Friday
Session 4	June 11 - 15	Tuesday - Saturday
Session 5	June 24 - 28	Monday - Friday
Session 6	June 25 - 29	Tuesday - Saturday
Session 7	July 8 - 12	Monday - Friday
Session 8	July 9 - 13	Tuesday - Saturday
Session 9	July 15 - 19	Monday - Friday
Session 10	July 16 - 20	Tuesday - Saturday
Session 11*	July 22 - 26	Monday - Friday

*Combined Session 11 on July 22-26 is only for Honors College, Engineering, Computer Science & Informatics students.

MOMENTS



After receiving their Baylor Line jerseys, Line Campers join in a time of prayer with their BLC leader. They then walk to the columns of the original Baylor building at Independence, Texas, where they share a time of worship, don their line jerseys, and process under the archway officially memorializing their place in the Baylor Line.

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