

*Student Success Partnership at City Tech is a creative, intentional process in which members of the college community develop and improve student success and experience. Working across the college leads to greater opportunities to share our vision and engage our students with what they need to plan their path to graduation and beyond.*

February 8-11, 2021

**STUDENT-READY COLLEGE COMMITTEE**

Greetings and Overview of Committee Meeting

Academic Essentials and “Our Stories”: Becoming a Student-Ready College

Results of “Student Needs Survey”

Breakout Sessions

- Planning PLAN Week: How can our student’s words help use create a more vibrant and relevant program

Next Steps and Reflection

**Spring Dates to Record**

---

PLAN Week, Monday, March 1-Thursday, March 4, 2020

<b>SRC Committee Meeting 2: Welcoming First-year Students to City Tech</b>
Monday, April 26, 4:00pm-5:15pm, Tuesday, April 27, 11:30am-12:45pm Wednesday, April 28, 9:45am-11:00am Thursdays, April 29, 9:45am-11:00 am

*Student Success Partnership at City Tech is a creative, intentional process in which members of the college community develop and improve student success and experience. Working across the college leads to greater opportunities to share our vision and engage our students with what they need to plan their path to graduation and beyond.*

**STUDENT-READY COLLEGE COMMITTEE**

February 8-11, 2021

**Students entering City Tech during the summer of 2020 were invited to participate in an online orientation, the New Student Connection, the Academic Essentials section included a reflective writing activity. A selection of reflections from [Academic Essentials](#) is listed here.**

### **What life experiences have prepared me for college?**

*My parents never went to college so they always tell me they wish so much to see me graduate and have a degree soon . I know that i had to be the first person to have a college degree in the family to make my family and my self very proud .My parents had always been there throughout my education in school and at home. They were always their to encouraged me. They always said nice things to me saying that i am a smart girl and that i am capable of doing anything i want. They where always very supportive. The relationship that i have with my family is very special. They helped me emotionally and mentally to become a better person and to be successful.*

### **How will I create positive academic habits for myself?**

*Creating positive academic habits for myself is very important. Since English is not my first language, I often feel stressed in class and worry that I cannot keep up with my classmates and instructors. It means that I have to spend more time and energy on studying. However, I create three ways to improve my study habits.*

*Firstly, make a plan for my study. It includes both timetables and practice items. Also, the plan should be updated based on the progress of my study from time to time. Once the plan is made, I follow it strictly.*

*Secondly, make full use of time in the class and preview the materials. I take notes of the critical points of every class. Then, I will review what I learned and do the practice questions to find what I do not understand.*

*Finally, I would like to discuss course materials with my classmates and friends. Spending time with friends is very important. If I concentrate all the time on school, the stress will be even greater, so it is necessary to talk with my friends to relieve it.*

### **How will I create positive academic habits for myself?**

*As a transfer student, I have experience in college life. Since I wasn't a native English speaker, it was challenging me to communicate with my classmates and professors and I was shy to speak*

Academic Essentials is part of the New Student Connection, City Tech's welcome to new students. As part of our welcome to new students, all students are invited to participate in the following reflective writing activity.

#### **Reflective Writing Activity**

Read the following quote by Dr. Pamela Brown, Provost and Vice President for Academic Affairs:

Learning is a source of hope for a better future. It requires hard work and sacrifice which can be even more difficult in challenging times. Your time in college is also your opportunity to connect with others, lift your spirit, enrich your life, and develop the skills and knowledge to make a difference in your community.  
— Dr. Pamela Brown, Provost and Vice President for Academic Affairs

Choose a question below and write a reflection in the comment box at the bottom of this page.

- What life experiences have prepared me for college?
- When I have been faced with a difficult situation, what strategies did I use to find a solution?
- How will I create positive academic habits for myself?
- What do I need to know about the resources offered by the college that I can access to help me become a better learner?
- In case my original academic plan does not work out, what would be my alternative plan?

Read and comment on another student's post. These are your classmates, encourage them to work towards their goals.

*Student Success Partnership at City Tech is a creative, intentional process in which members of the college community develop and improve student success and experience. Working across the college leads to greater opportunities to share our vision and engage our students with what they need to plan their path to graduation and beyond.*

**STUDENT-READY COLLEGE COMMITTEE**

February 8-11, 2021

*up because of my accent. But studying with groups helped me to improve my speaking and they make me comfortable sharing my thoughts in front of everyone. When you have good friends at college, it's easy to create positive academic habits. Learning alone sometimes stressful, so you need someone to talk, to relax your mind. However, not only friends but also I was taking advantage of office hours to engage with my professors. They are always available to help when in need. So I think as a new student at City Tech, it's very important to make good friends and follow a guide/plan to keep on track with your studies, and also, engage in different clubs will create positive academic habits.*

**When I have been faced with a difficult situation, what strategies did I use to find a solution?**

*I am naturally very shy and because of that I find it hard to speak up and share my ideas. I was accepted to Chi Alpha Epsilon (XAE), an honor society. Being part of it helped me to overcome my shyness because discussion and participation was the main focus of this group. It made it easier for me to share my ideas which led to discussions. It also helped me to challenge myself to come out of my comfort zone.*

**How will I create positive academic habits for myself?**

Because my house tends to be noisy, I'll definitely have to make a schedule in regards to the amount of noise that is being produced. Joining in on a separate virtual meeting other than my required classes will get me and my peers a different way to study in a more social and memorable way.

*Student Success Partnership at City Tech is a creative, intentional process in which members of the college community develop and improve student success and experience. Working across the college leads to greater opportunities to share our vision and engage our students with what they need to plan their path to graduation and beyond.*

**STUDENT-READY COLLEGE COMMITTEE**

February 8-11, 2021

**Students enrolled in City Tech's First Year Learning Communities are invited to participate in a reflective story-telling project called "[Our Stories: Becoming a College Student](#)". A selection of "stories" from the project are listed here.**

**Prompt:** We invite you to tell a story about your first few weeks at City Tech. Research has shown that first-semester students often worry about their transition in to college and how eventually students become comfortable and find a community of people with whom they are close and feel they belong. Please describe in a short story how you have experienced your first few weeks at City Tech. Aim to write 300-500 words and be sure to illustrate your post with examples from your own experiences in classes, seminars, lectures, study groups, and labs. What happened? How did you and others involved think and feel? How did it turn out? We hope this process will help you think about your transition experience. Once you have finished writing please take time to read and comment on at least two of your peer's stories.

*As a freshman in college the beginning of your first semester sounds very scary, with everything being online this whole process felt two times worse. My first semester experience actually turned out to be a life changing experience for me, I came into the college world with so much fear but I learned many things such as met amazing students and professors. This semester I adapted to virtual school experience, I learned how to use blackboard and openlab, adapted to using microsoft word and adapted to the college material. At first it was hard to finally get used to it all but as time went by it slowly got easier and time also started to fly by. For starters my lectures were very interesting, the professors were very detailed in our lessons and made everyone feel welcome. At the beginning, viewing a syllabus might seem harsh but as the days goes by these assignments slowly start becoming easier to manage. One of the main things I learned to do was to use my time wisely, I started to do work whenever I had the chance to and it allowed me to spend my week stress free instead of procrastinating. The thought of having lectures through zoom or collaborate at first was hard because I wasn't used to it but I slowly started adapting to it and make sure to take notes in order to better my understanding of the material. It was also very nerve wrecking being put into groups with people you don't know or completing projects with a classmate but thankfully communication made everything easier, as the semester went by it was easier to talk to students and I suddenly wasn't shy to participate in class discussions. In the beginning of the year waking up to class was hard but as time went by I started to adjust, when there wouldn't be classes I was still used to my schedule but I took this as an advantage. The first semester felt hard at first but staying organized helped my experience a lot, this helped me stay on track and helped me achieve the grades I was striving for. Overall, my first semester turned out great, I worked hard and it all paid off. Although college is hard, sometimes we have to put in the work and put our education first in order to make the experience calmer and one to cherish!*

---

*As my first semester at City Tech ends it has been a challenge since its all virtual. Since its my first year everything was new to me, blackboard was new to me as well as the way we do work. My major is Emerging Medias and both the classes for my major is ENT and MTEC, in both classes there is a lot of group work as we have to do projects and work together to make either videos or such. Sometimes it can get weird as how sometimes during the zoom no one really wants to talk or it will just end up being weird. A lot of my peers did*

**Student Success Partnership at City Tech is a creative, intentional process in which members of the college community develop and improve student success and experience. Working across the college leads to greater opportunities to share our vision and engage our students with what they need to plan their path to graduation and beyond.**

**STUDENT-READY COLLEGE COMMITTEE**

February 8-11, 2021

*feel that it wasn't the best semester as it had to be virtual and it was hard trying to study that way. Somehow we did manage to study in some way or the other.*

*Something I do look forward is getting to meet other peers and hopefully making connection. My professors did make it easier for us as some of them recorded the seminars or the lectures which made it feel a bit better trying to understand the work. Most importantly I seek to get back into class soon as I don't really enjoy virtual learning, mainly because I learn more from being in a classroom with others around. Overall it's been a challenging semester and hope to make it through Finals.*

---

*going to college this year was not what I expected when I thought how my first year of college would be I thought it would be me waking up everyday Monday through Thursday mad because I had to wake up so early to catch the train to get to school. Oh boy was I wrong, Covid-19 change and effected everyone school life and personal life when I first found out that all my college classes was going to be online I was like that sounds great I get to stay home and work what is so bad about that. But the more and more I went the each class over these past three months made me realize that going to college in person is more beneficial to me as a person. Even though I don't like going to school in person because of the fact I have to wake up so early I still prefer to be taught in person. Online is not my way of trying to learn things I am more of a hands on learner and This whole Covid stuff made me realize that a lot. On top of that this wasn't really my ideal way of making friends through a computer screen, Its hard to form bonds like that even with teachers.*

---

*The one teacher that I can say that I formed somewhat of a bond with so far through this online stuff would be my ---- teacher. The reason why I was able to form a little bond with him because we both share interest in music and showed me a lot of things on how you can mix music with coding to make your own songs, he even helped me find a free music program to help me make my beats that I didn't even know existed. But despite this online stuff being a bit of a hassle to me sometimes and helped me face my flaws head on. What I mean by that is that when it comes to my work ethic I have a very bad procrastination problem that this online stuff helped me fix a little bit, I am not going to say I fixed it completely because that would be lying. Also because everything is online all your work is organized so you don't have to worry about losing papers and stuff like that so that is an added bonus. But overall This online college stuff me has downsides and bright sides too but I still would like to go back to school in person*

---

*The first few weeks at City Tech, I was excited and concerned about the classes, as they would take place online. I was curious about the development and the path they would take this first semester. During the first weeks of virtual classes, I was adapting to a new teaching system and learning schedule. I learned to establish a schedule to avoid procrastination, sending assignments on time helped me keep up with other projects. It was exhausting at first, for the rest of the time, I learned to prioritize and manage the remaining time for the next assignment. It has been satisfying meeting my classmates online and my teachers as well. My experience*

***Student Success Partnership at City Tech is a creative, intentional process in which members of the college community develop and improve student success and experience. Working across the college leads to greater opportunities to share our vision and engage our students with what they need to plan their path to graduation and beyond.***

**STUDENT-READY COLLEGE COMMITTEE**

February 8-11, 2021

*as a student at City Tech has been good. The teachers were available and attentive about the doubts and concerns, of both the course and the advice for the following semester. I had some doubts about the courses that I should take, the advice helped me to orient myself about the courses. Also, at the beginning of the classes I had some problems with email, so I could not join Open Lab at that time. Successfully, the problem was resolved and I was able to complete and submit my assignments and projects. I feel that this academic year has been unique. It has been a year of terrible news and events, but also of surprises because despite the situation I can still continue my career. Being near the end of the first semester, I feel that I have met valuable people but above all I have learned important things. I have learned to set schedules, manage time to submit assignments on time, and keep in contact with teachers and peers. In addition, staying informed about college events and clubs has been a valuable experience about student life and meeting more students who like me want to learn more.*

*Wow, time flies so fast that I can't even believe that there is only a couple of days left to the end of the semester, and I am so close to saying that I made it through my first semester just got to go through my finals hopefully I will pass all of my finals. So much can be said about my first semester in college, like how at the beginning, I was nervous about how everything will be. Then I was stressed out, especially now that I am in the week where I will take my finals, but I am a bit calm because I made it through this semester with ups and downs. However, I am almost going to make it to the end. My experience this semester wasn't so bad, even though my first-semester was virtual. I enjoyed it because from every class that I have taken, I learned something new, and my professors made it better and a bit easier to go through. However, it wasn't easy because I had to manage my time wisely to give in my homework and projects on time. But also take time to study; plus, when it came to balancing schoolwork with being able to have time for myself, it was hard for me, but I manage to do so. I am not going to lie that in the beginning, I was overwhelmed by the assignments in how am going to get them done, but I reminded myself that I was given a fair amount of time, but procrastination was a thing I did before, which led to the pile of work.*

*Nonetheless, I got all that pile of homework done before the date. However, with pressure on my shoulders, I decided that I would get some of the work done any time I had. Even though it is due in a week, it is better to get it done early than rush to it and get nervous if you're going to get it done, which doesn't feel right. Additionally, I started to create a planner for myself, so I would look at it to see what assignments I should get done first or prioritize specific homework or assignments. Furthermore, talking during class or participating during class was always hard because I am a shy person even though my camera wasn't even on, and we weren't in person. However, the professors made me feel comfortable, so I started to speak a bit. But was still scared and got nervous, but I have to get over being shy because I will be communicating with many people in the hospitality industry career I choose.*

*Moreover, when I first started classes, I didn't have any motivation, and it was hard waking up early in the morning. I reminded myself that I am doing this to have a promising future and how my parents sacrificed so much to have a better future here, so I had to make them proud that I would get something out of all the sacrifices they made for me. Besides, my parents always tell me how they want me to succeed in life and get a degree for my benefit, and I want to show them how grateful I am to them. Finally, my first semester at City Tech wasn't so bad as I pictured it to be. I had the professors' help to get me through this semester, plus I was given so many opportunities throughout the semester, and even though I had to do tons of work, it all pays off.*

*I can't wait for the day I will be able to go to college in person; as of now, I am looking forward to next semester, which will be another successful semester.*