Guidelines for Successful Mentoring

As a Transfer Mentor, you will have a significant impact on the lives of incoming students. The experience of being a mentor will be different for each person; however, here are some basic tenets we would like you to consider/think about as you begin to establish your student interaction with Transfer Connections.

- **Check your personal biases toward involvement opportunities/programs at UM:**
  Think of something you are involved in or something you did at UM that changed/shaped your college experience. Think back to how you found out about this opportunity. Imagine if someone had discouraged you from taking advantage of this opportunity. How would your life be different?

- **Balance your roles as both friend and mentor:** We hope you will gain a lot from being a mentor, and friendships are definitely a product of our program. However, we want you to expand your definition of “mentor” beyond being a friend. So what does this mean?
  - Be proactive & take initiative in establishing your role
  - Understand that you are a Mentor FIRST for your mentees—building friendships within the program are essential, but remember that you are an employee and reflection of the Office of New Student Programs, even when you are off the clock!
  - Show empathy/understanding of diverse student experiences; talk to your supervisor for tips and resources if this is an area of challenge.
  - Challenge yourself to look beyond your own experience at UM
  - Realize that not all transfer experiences are the same; become aware of the assumptions that shape your view of college/the “average” student.
  (ex. Parents pay for college, Michigan is a diverse campus)

- **Represent UM and Transfer Connections:** As Mentors, you are some of the first contacts the mentees will have with student life at UM. You will help shape the new students initial impressions of UM and the Mentorship program. Be honest and open with your mentees, but do so with diplomacy and tact that upholds UM and Mentorship.

- **Incorporate the role of the Transfer Mentor in your everyday life:** As the fall semester is underway, we want you to begin thinking about the things we have discussed here so far, and how you will incorporate the role of Peer Mentor into you life as a student in the fall. Think about the logistics (time commitment, events, organization) of the role, but also think about what it means for you to be a representative of UM for your Transfer mentees.