

2017 Pre-departure Events and Assessment Summary

We have a total of 58 students and 76 parents attended the Pre-departure Events this year. The students rated on a 4.38 average (out of 5) that the events were helpful, and the parents rated on a 4.68 average. **All students** agreed that they are better prepared after attending the events, and **all students and parents** will recommend the events to future incoming students and parents.

Student and Parent Assessment

Majority of the students have logged into MyUI (88.64%) and have started the Pre-arrival Checklist (88.64%) prior to attending the events. A few students were able to log into MyUI during the events. Websites, WeChat, and emails from Iowa are the top three ways students get their information prior and after the events.

These are what the students have learned in different sessions during the events:

- **Academic Expectations:** Making plan, adjusting to the language environment, and seeking help
- **Student Work Group:** Majority of the questions on the worksheet, and iHawk
- **Student Panel:** advice from volunteers, daily life questions, such as paying tuition

The top two action steps that students would like to take after the events are to work on the Success at Iowa course and to log into MyUI. Other action steps include studying hard, doing reading before class, completing Pre-arrival Checklist, booking flight, etc.

Majority of the students and parents think that the events were helpful in providing a lot of information that they need. Majority of the rest of the suggestions from students include having volunteers from different backgrounds (including academic backgrounds, grad volunteer, American students, etc.). One student also suggested to provide more information for grad students. A few parents suggested to have the information in written form. Pushing back the start time to 2pm, covering more content about safety, and having a few more events like this are some other suggestions. A few students and parents asked about how to become volunteers for the events next year at both locations.

Volunteer Assessment

The volunteers think that the events went well. Majority of the suggestions are about the timing of small groups and panel – majority of the volunteers suggested to shorten the small group and extend the panel. Volunteers also indicated that they would want to know how to motivate students to take initiatives in asking questions, or motivate students to talk in the small groups. One volunteer mentioned technical difficulty logging into iHawk during the small group. A few volunteers suggested to have more training (or practice) on ways to answer questions from students and parents.