Culture of Care

Taking a few steps to express interest in your students’ aspirations and current life circumstances lets them know you care about their wellbeing and success. Building a culture of care helps create a positive learning environment and a stronger sense of community.

Consider
- Providing information about campus resources
- Creating weekly structure and consistency
- Learning students’ aspirations and commitments
- Sharing guidelines and tips that help promote student success

Do
- Invite students to visit with you early in the semester
- Share materials you wish you would have had as a student to help with study skills
- Encourage students to get involved in research or community engagement

Ask
- How you can humanize your courses
- Whether you’ve made it clear to your students that they can reach out to you for support
- If you’ve provided enough support and resources

“Checking In”
- Ask students to periodically check in with you
- Use a prompt from their readings and invite them to respond with a photo or a short video
- Provide a short, personalized response to students so they can better connect with you

Don’t
- Assume everyone is familiar with technology
- Delay too long before giving feedback
- Expect students to turn in quality work without sufficient guidelines

Resources
- Sample “Personal Interest and Commitment” Form
- Sample “Checking In” Message
- Student Support Resources
- Student Behavioral Intervention Team (SBIT)