Great Scott!
How to engage with the Marty McFlys in your office:
A discussion about high-achievers, pointers for advisors, and creating an advising flux capacitor.

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Buckle Up...!
Who is a High Achieving Student?
Back to the Past
Literature Review

- With **learning theory**, challenge students to understand curriculum goals, connect to resources, and teach self-evaluation. ~ Reynolds, 2010
- High Achieving Students who earn low grades can face a **shock to the ego and loss of identity** - GPA is critical for scholarships and job seeking. Honken, 2013
- High Achieving Students experience high levels of **pressure** to remain exceptional ~Dougherty, 2007
- Characteristics: **active learners**, poor high school **study habits** (no challenge), **tunnel vision** ~Dougherty, 2007
Theory is great...now what?
Constructivism – “We” not “You”

- Learning-centered advising harnesses advisor-student interactions to create learning and independent decision-making (constructivism theory) Xyst, 2016
Discussion

- What have you seen when working with high-achievers?
- Discuss...
Social Constructivism in Action

- **UTAA 2016**
  - Pressure to major vs. happiness
  - Make pressure a positive thing
  - Look at positives—setback vs. failure
- **UTSA 2016**
  - HS vs university life (big fish/little fish)
  - Normalize low grades - “You are not alone”
  - Short goals > long ones (1 semester/time)
- **TEXAAN 2017**
  - Good GPA vs. right major fit
  - High-achievers want to connect to real life
Building Our Flux Capacitator
University College Scholars

- Introducing...
What We Have Learned

- Guest Speakers:
  - McNair Scholars, Honors College, Service Learning, Motivational Speaker/Advisor, UTA Library

Free pizza!
Program Design

- Chose recruiting pool (based on ACT/SAT scores)
  - Wanted to focus on high achievers, so set high cut off score
- Emailed potential participants
- Room reservation, scheduling, etc.
Fall 2016

- 1st Semester Pulled ACT/SAT scores for incoming freshmen
  - 3 Workshops with free pizza
  - McNair Scholars, Honors College,
Spring 2017

- 2\textsuperscript{nd} Semester re-recruited Based on GPA
- Found out that there was a flip
- 3 workshops
Roadblocks

• Wanted student mentors
• Fighting for student attention
• More departmental participation (swag bags 😞)
• Low budget – but still need to justify expense
• Target audience – initial attendees all STEM
• Student burnout/disappointment (1st semester crash)
• Retention for next year – revising plans for incentives
Back to the Future
Coming Up Next Season...

- Despite challenges....
- Sophomore level coming Fall 2017!

STAY TUNED FOR SOME EXCITING NEWS...
Collaboration/Networking

- Interested in collaborating?
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References

References, Cont’d


