

UNCP FACTS

- Founded 1887 and is the nation's only 4-year public institution founded by American Indians for American Indians
- Fall '18 enrollment 7,137
- Offers 41 Undergrad Programs and 17 Graduate Programs
- American Indian enrollment 15% Fall '18
- Average class size is 20



Interested in being a part of the Social Belonging for Student Success program as a student, mentor or faculty research?

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**SOCIAL
BELONGING FOR
STUDENT SUCCESS**



**Promoting Campus
Engagement
to Improve
Academic Outcome**

Social Belonging for Student Success (SBSS) is a project funded by a five-year grant from Native American Serving Non-Tribal Institutions (NANSTI). The project focuses on a single, comprehensive goal to address the needs of currently enrolled UNCP students, thereby increasing persistence and graduation rates, as well as meeting the students' social belonging needs.

To realize this goal, SBSS will emphasize these initiatives:

- Designing, implementing, and evaluating new courses/programs that will improve social belonging, thereby increasing academic outcomes for Native American and low income students;
- Promoting faculty development to increase understanding of student success in academic program and courses;
- Sponsoring faculty/student mentorships, in research and service, to increase social belonging and student success.

Belonging has strong ties to our interest, motivation, health, and happiness (Walton & Cohen, 2011). Research indicates that a single feeling of exclusion can undermine how well we do in our everyday life, including our academic performance.



"Mentoring is natural in American Indian communities. Engaging mentors who are part of or have experience with the community being served yields positive results."
(Susan G. Weinberger, PhD)

"Colleges should not take students' sense of belonging for granted. Have a structure in place that's designed to communicate that students matter. Just because students got into a college doesn't mean they feel at home there. Colleges should provide lots of opportunities for students to connect with others and find a place where they fit in."
(Darnell G. Cole, Associate Professor)

"Non traditional student has outside obligations which includes raising two children. She is busy making a way for her children to have stability both, financially and emotionally. Not only was she compensated for her time, she gained knowledge of the University and what it takes to be successful as a student with the SBSS program."
(SBSS Mentor)

"Before SBSS, student had several conflicts on campus with multiple departments. Attitude was a "them against me" mentality, ability to navigate difficult circumstances was poor and social skills were relegated to a distance based introvert. Now mentee's ability to navigate confrontation has improved with consistent/ positive feedback and ability to cope with emotions are improving."
(SBSS Mentor)

