Counselor Educators who are not Chapter Faculty Advisors: Meeting Needs and Promoting Involvement

The following tips for engaging non-CFA faculty at the chapter level (that can be used in the newsletter article, website, etc.) were developed by the CSI Counselor Educator Task Force, chaired by Dr. Vicki White Kress.

1. Invite eligible counselor educator colleagues to become a member of the CSI chapter (and those who were initiated in another chapter – to transfer membership to the chapter at their current institution);

2. When planning chapter activities, the CSI chapter president and/or CSI faculty advisor requests input from counselor education faculty, especially activities that have a direct impact on the program;

3. Specifically invite counselor education faculty to participate in chapter activities, regardless of their chapter membership status including:
   a. Ask counselor educators to be a guest speaker at a brown bag lunch, meeting, or activities sponsored by the CSI chapter.
   b. Ask counselor educators to join in on social, fundraising, and other events
   c. Involve counselor educators in membership drives;

4. When determining CSI chapter activity dates take into account counselor education faculty schedules and availability;

5. Publish a monthly or semester calendar with CSI events (local as well as national) and distribute to counselor education faculty; update counselor education faculty on chapter activities during program meetings;

6. Ask for input from counselor education faculty who have experience in different CSI chapters (i.e., what was successful for the chapter, etc.);

7. Students inviting CEs to initiation, meetings, etc. may be helpful;

8. Promote the idea of colleagues working together around CSI activities to demonstrate support for students;

9. Invite higher administration (Dean, Department Chair) to functions and let CE’s know;

10. Personally discuss CE involvement and support of CSI chapter – asking what they are willing/able to do to be supportive and ideas that they have;
11. Inviting CE’s to help (“We could use your help with this.”) And “assign” jobs to CE so that they may be actively involved;

12. Make CSI meetings a ½ hour out of end of first night class and ½ hour out of start of second night class and professors encouraged to go to meetings by department chair—rotate days of the week so no professors get it all of the time;

13. Solicit postings for Counselor’s Bookshelf or other online forums from CEs;

14. Chapters can enlist CEs to lead service projects—research their interests;

15. Feature a CE in chapter newsletter;

16. Letter from Department Chair encouraging CEs to participate;

17. Develop a CE/student leader mentorship program;

18. When thank you letters are sent to CEs for helping, be sure to cc them to the Department Chair and Dean.