

Achieving the Dream

ADVANCING OUR STUDENT SUCCESS AGENDA



DREAM 2014, February 25



About Northwest Indian College

- Tribal College in Washington State
- One of 37 Tribal Colleges in the US
- About 700 degree-seeking students
- 86% Native students
- Six service locations in the Northwest
- Average ATD cohort size: 138 students



NORTHWEST INDIAN COLLEGE
Xwlemi Elh > Tal > Nexw Squi

NWIC Service Area



Reviewing the data

- Small numbers make finding data trends difficult
- Low attendance at orientation
- Very low rate of survey respondents
- Common thread: connection to campus, culture, students, staff, and resources most important factor in success

Building Connection

- Provide resources
- Meet the community of NWIC
- Hold Financial Aid workshops
- Connect with student mentors
- Share meals together
- Focus on identity in the context of place of origin

IDENTITY

Successful NWIC students are rooted in their individual and collective personal and tribal identities, are connected to ancestral and contemporary life experiences that strengthen their tribal families and communities, promote sovereignty, and protect inherent rights. Students are knowledgeable about their identity in the context of the place of their origin, as well as the qualities that comprise tribal identity, including governance and economic systems, kinship, homelands, socialization practices, beliefs, traditions, values, and Native languages.

Goal: Students connect their educational process to cultural restoration and tribal knowledge

1. Students connect their educational process with sense of place.
2. Students connect their educational process with what it means to be a People.
3. Students are knowledgeable about their identity in the context of the place of their origin.

Goal: Students are knowledgeable about historic and contemporary Native issues.

1. Students are knowledgeable of their own tribe's traditional practices, beliefs, values and language
2. Students are knowledgeable about contemporary tribal governance and economic issues

Goal: Students demonstrate the qualities of cultural and personal sovereignty.

1. Students access community resources that support their educational goals.
2. Students participate in communities of learning in support of their educational goals.

*Taken from the NWIC Commitment to Student Success statement

Based on feedback from fall 2012 surveys and suggestions, we focused on bringing students a more culturally and locally meaningful introduction to Northwest Indian College and the surrounding area.

The canoe has a long and important history in the region, and helps students to connect with their identity.



Student Sound Bites on the Canoe Activity

- “This was something I had never experienced before. It teaches a lot about discipline and teamwork.”
- “It was great to be able to come together and share our way of life.”
- “Being a plains Indian, it was an experience being on the water. I was scared, got hit by a paddle, but it was great.”
- “I loved hearing the stories.”
- “I’ve lived here all my life, but this was my first time in a canoe.”
- “I’ve been to a couple other orientations, and this was the best”
- “NWIC is the best!”

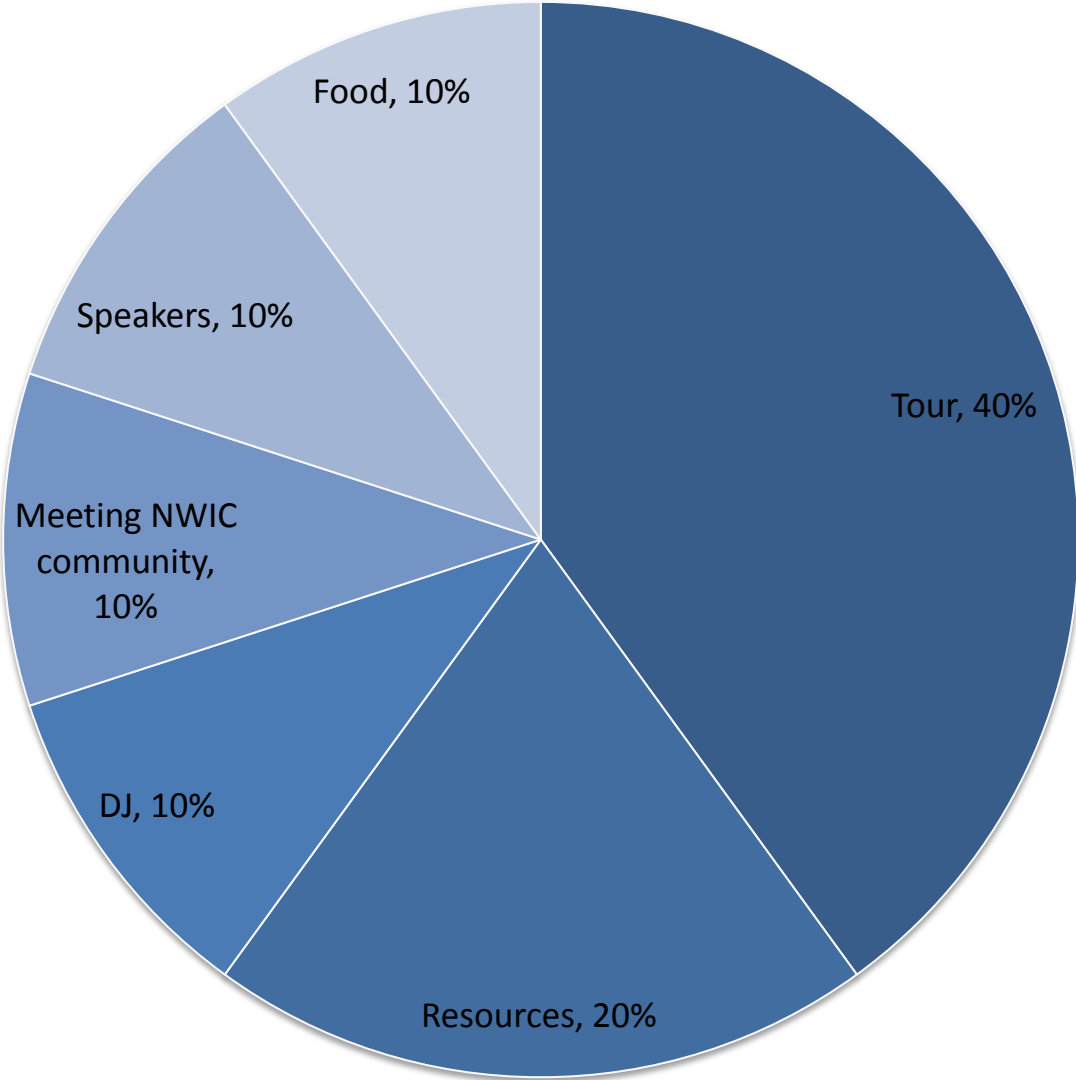




Student Feedback on Orientation

Fall 2012:

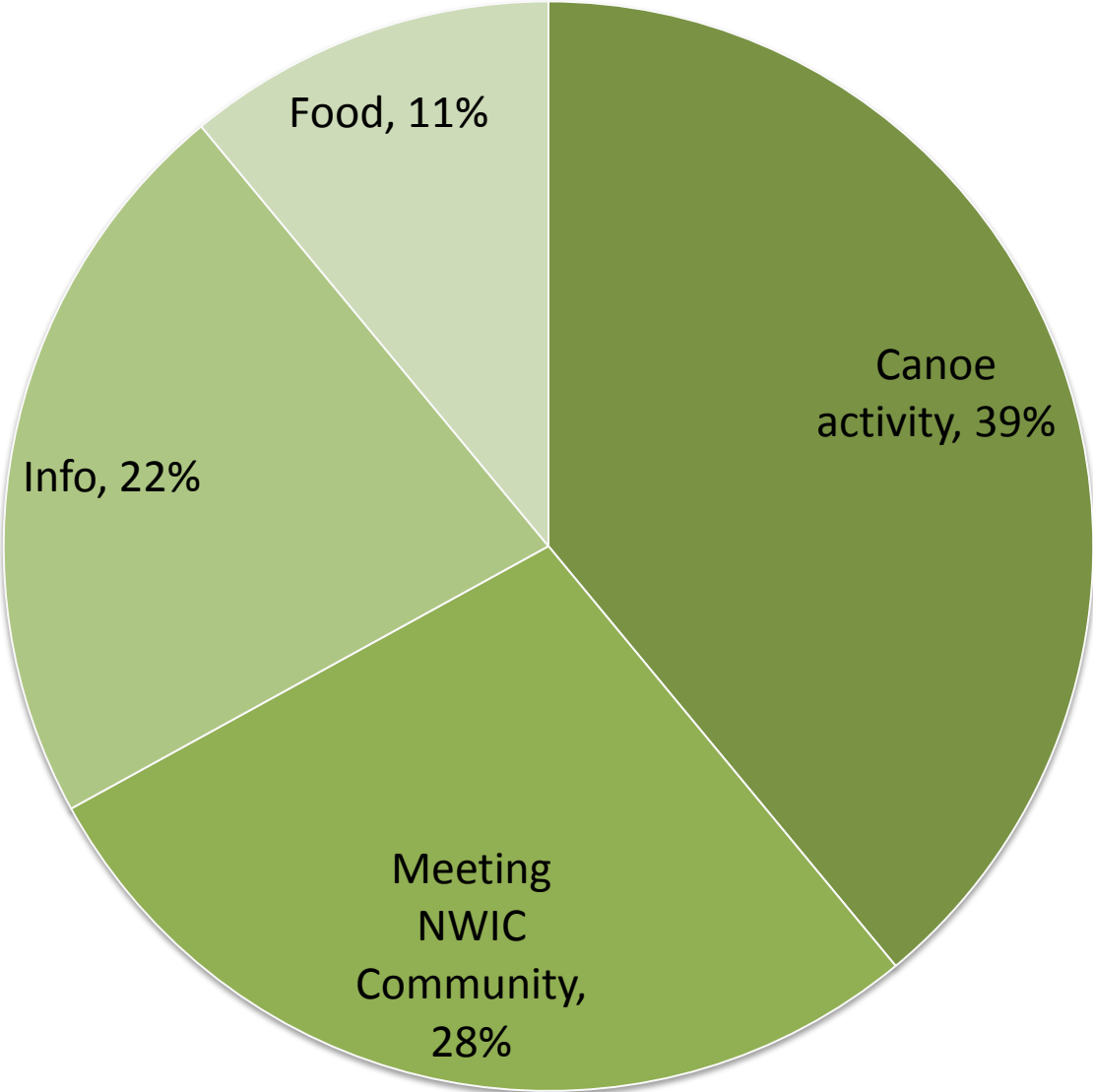
What was your favorite part of Orientation?



Student Feedback on Orientation

Spring 2013
(pilot quarter):

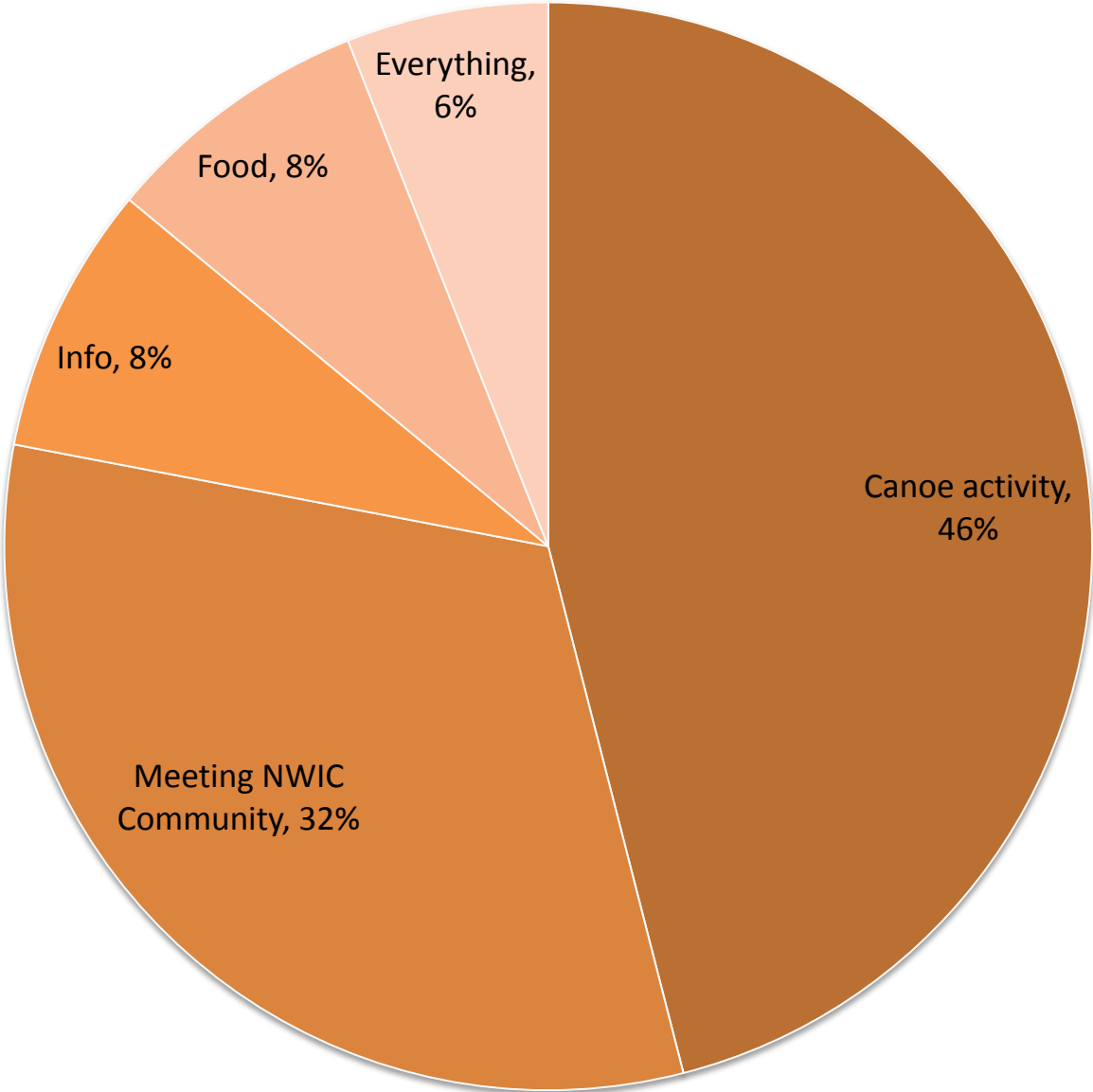
What was your favorite part of Orientation?



Student Feedback on Orientation

Fall 2013:

What was your favorite part of Orientation?



Scaling Up

Delivering cultural components at site orientations:

- Muckleshoot – Natural plants demo
- Tulalip – Native flute, talking circle
- Nez Perce – Horse riding, stick games
- Swinomish – Traditional salmon BBQ, garden
- Port Gamble – Traditional song and drum

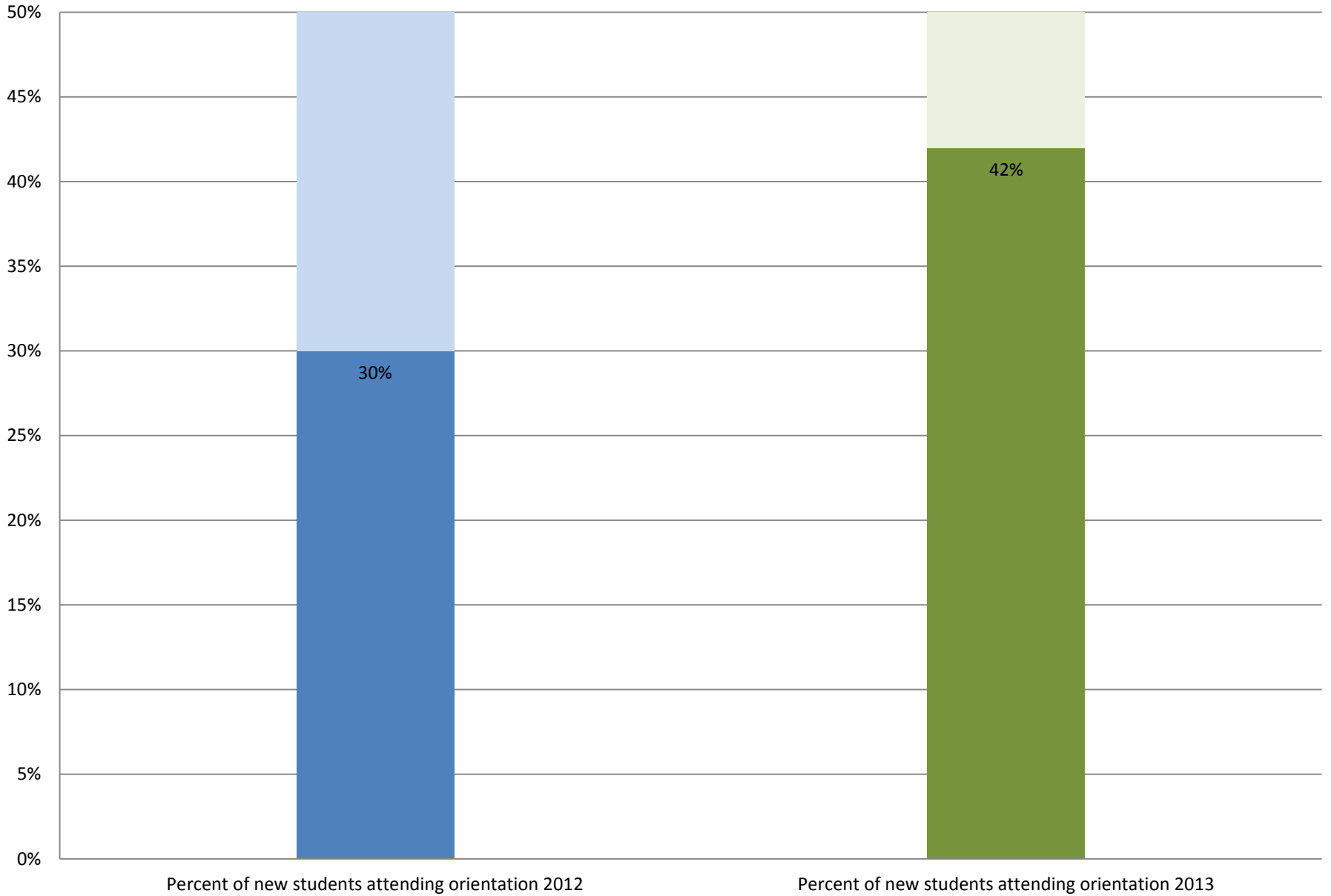








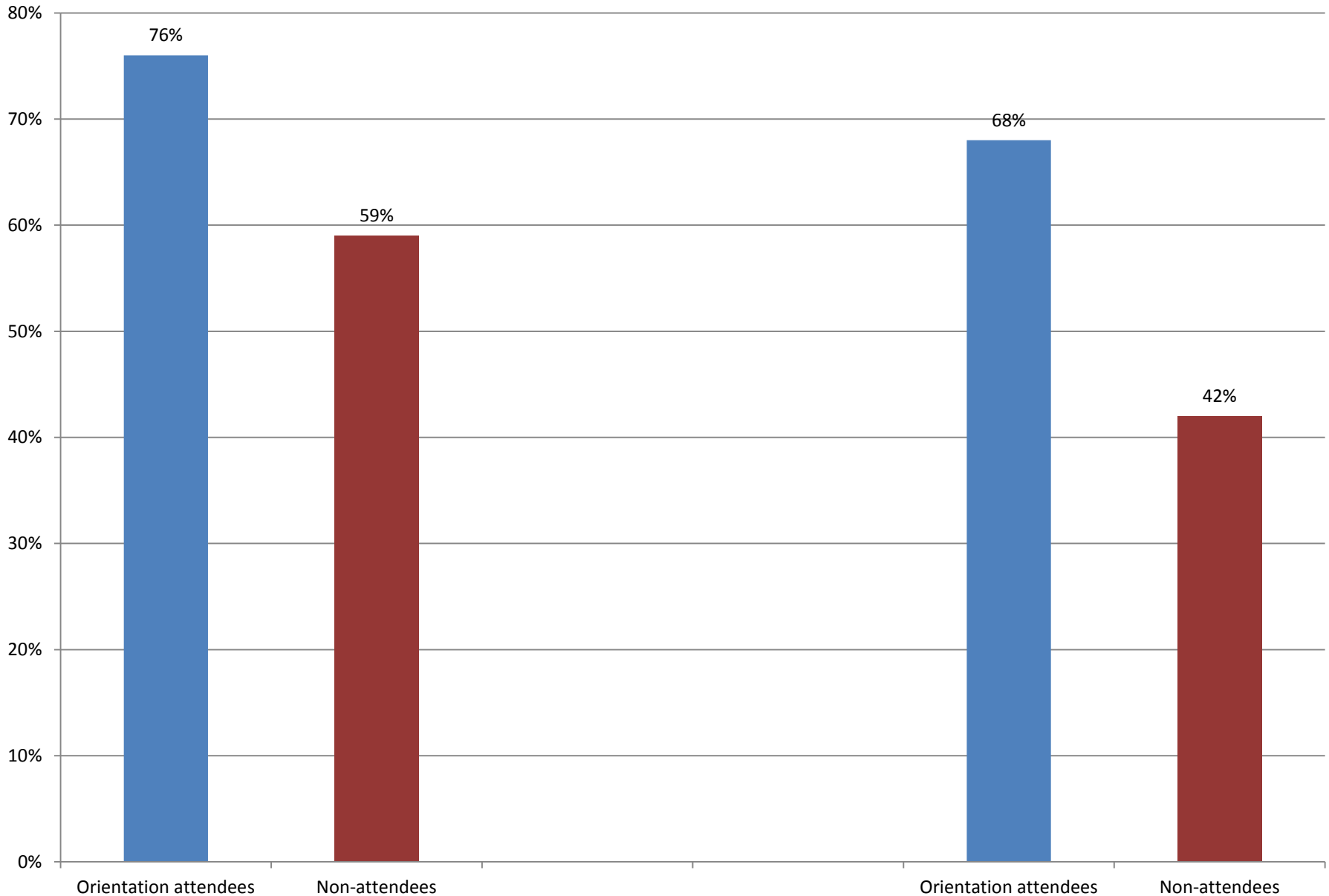
Participation in Orientation



Attendees' success vs. non-attendees

Fall 2013 students finishing fall with a 2.0 or higher

Fall 2013 students finishing 100% of their courses





ACHIEVING THE DREAM
STUDENT SUCCESS COMMITMENT STATEMENT

"We are committed to:

Supporting the educational dreams of our students and their academic *achievement* by building *leadership* skills, inspiring *engagement*, and strengthening their tribal *identity*."

- The staff, faculty, and community
of Northwest Indian College