Transfer Students Speak Out…
On what they wish they knew their first semester at ISU

Transfer students on Academic Probation were asked what new transfer students should be told early in their first semester at Illinois State to help them achieve academic success. Transfer students may underestimate the transition they face by enrolling at Illinois State. Thus, the following points are key for us to emphasize when working with transfer students.

1. Grades from other schools do not transfer.
   All transfer students interviewed believed their community college grades transferred to Illinois State. They only came to understand the truth after their first semester when informed they were on Academic Probation.

2. Get the best GPA you can your first semester at ISU.
   All transfer students interviewed did not realize the far reaching implications of a low first semester GPA at ISU including:
   - Academic Probation
   - Risk for Academic Dismissal
   - Problems gaining admission into a major
   - Difficulty obtaining a productive course schedule for future semesters
   - Delayed graduation

3. ISU policies are different than their previous institution!
   Students expressed confusion and concern about the following policies:
   - Course drop/withdrawal dates
   - Course repeat policies
   - Academic Probation/Dismissal policies
   - 75 hour policy

4. Academic expectations at ISU may be different from your community college.
   Many students were surprised at their poor grades because they easily earned A’s and B’s at community college. Students felt that they should be warned of the potential for higher academic expectations early on and would like a step by step guide on where to go for tutoring help.

5. You have to seek out help on your own!
   Students reported they waited for an instructor to tell them where to go for help. They wish they had been told early on to seek help before a problem becomes a crisis. Additionally, students want information about campus resources and the steps that should be taken to address common problems.

6. Carry your Redbird card everywhere.
   Students reported they were unaware that funds could be placed on their card to purchase food, printing, etc.