Transitioning from Student to Professional: The Experiences of New Professionals in Student Affairs

Liz Okuma
Vice President & Dean of Students
Hiram College
www.hiram.edu
Who is who...

1. Introduce yourself

2. Why are you attending this program?
Learning Outcomes for this session

I. Participants will be able to understand the components of a qualitative study.
II. Participants will be able to apply qualitative assessment to their programs and/or services.
III. Participants will understand the basis idea around Interpretative Phenomenological Analysis (IPA).
IV. Participants will be able to identify one way qualitative data collection could help them “tell the story” of their students.
What is qualitative research?

- Research in which the data are words/pictures/ideas...mostly anything but numbers.

- Research in which the data are collected and analyzed by the researcher, not by any mechanical means.

(Jacobs, 1985; Elkins Nesheim, 2008)
Ice Breaker...
Pilot Study and Dissertation

Transitioning from Student to Professional: The Experiences of New Professionals in Student Affairs
Schlossberg Transition Theory

Self
Support
Situation
Strategies
Pilot Method (dissertation)

- Purposeful sampling that led to snowball effect sampling
- 12 recent master’s graduates
- On-line journaling from April to October (May to September)
- One 30-minute interview at the end to talk about process (focus group)
Analysis and Results

Interpretative phenomenological analysis (IPA)
Themes

Three overarching themes
1. Finding a Community
2. Setting a Routine
3. Understanding Transition takes Time

• Strategies used by participants
Limitations

• Known participants
• Only analyzing three participants
• Only using Schlossberg’s “Strategies”
• Researcher bias
  – Been a new professional
  – Supervise many
What is Qualitative

• Qualitative researchers seek answers to their questions in the real world. They gather what they see, hear, and read from people and places and from events and activities...Their purpose is to learn about some aspect of the social world and to generate new understandings that can be used.

Small group work

• Is qualitative assessment happening on your campus?

• If so, what does this look like?
Do you feel like you are surveying students everyday?

- How can we use Anecdotes?
- What process can you follow to get information?
- Does this happen on your campus?
THANK YOU

Questions??