



Title III First- and Second-Year Student Success

Message from the Executive Director

As I reflect over the previous semesters up to this point, it is important that I extend my sincere appreciation to our entire First- and Second-Year Student Success Center team. No matter the stronghold, you all rose to the occasion and persevered with dedication, professionalism, and heart.

To my leadership team- Mr. Robert Vidal, Mr. Terron Dames, Ms. Adrienne Byrd, and Mrs. LaKeysha Smith, thank you for your exceptional leadership and the herculean effort you put forth to guide your teams to success.

To our Student Success Coaches, Retention Specialists, Content Specialists, and Student Employees; your willingness to take on any task, big or small, is truly commendable. Your commitment to students is the foundation of our accomplishments.

To our first- and second-year students, I hope you have achieved the goals you set for yourself this semester and are looking forward to new opportunities here at Central State University.

Wishing you and your families many blessings this holiday season and beyond!

Section I

Academic Advising and Coaching

The message below was sent from our EAB- Strategic Leader- Danielle Fadare

Shoutout to [LaKeisha Jenkins Washington](#) [LaKeysha Smith](#) [Rory Infante](#) at Central State University for a successful relaunch on campus this Fall! 4 New Care Units on boarded, Early Alerts Process Improved and a significant increase in faculty submitting Kudos for students!

The Academic Advising Council (AAC) was established Fall 2025 to unify and elevate advising practices across Central State University, with a strong emphasis on student retention, academic recovery, and timely progression. A key early initiative is the updated Advising Handbook, which will be available this spring for students, faculty, and staff.

The Council has serves as the central coordinating body for:

- Faculty advisors across three colleges
- Student Success Coaching team, FSYSS
- At-risk student interventions and support
- Student voice and peer engagement in academic planning



Coming Spring 2026

Forage - a tool included in Navigate360 that provides FREE virtual job simulations from hundreds of companies for career connections. This is a great academic program engagement opportunity. Forage job simulations help connect students to great jobs by:

- Helping students build real-world job skills that they can add to their resume and/or LinkedIn profile
- Allowing students to explore careers, industries, and companies for FREE, at their own pace and on their own schedule
- Offering simulations from leading companies looking to hire motivated students, like PwC, Goldman Sachs, PepsiCo & more
- More than tripling a student's chance of landing a role

Early Alerts and Hand Raises guideline – not sure which alert to use or what happens when on is submitted? This guideline answers those questions. It also identifies Hand Raise options for students to request assistance.

Section II

Office of Academic Support and Instructional Services (OASIS)

The Office of Academic Support and Instructional Services (OASIS), in collaboration with the English Faculty, is excited to announce the launch of a dedicated Writing Center designed to provide more in-depth support for students' writing needs. The center will offer individualized assistance across disciplines while also hosting a variety of educational and enrichment programs, including creative writing workshops, book clubs, and comic clubs, among others. The Writing Center is scheduled to open on January 20, 2026, and will be located in Wesley Hall, Room 214.



In addition to this new initiative, the Alpha Lambda Delta (ALD) Honors Society—hosted and advised by OASIS staff—has experienced a highly successful launch. The society recently held its initiation ceremony, welcoming more than 40 new members. Since its inception, ALD has successfully completed seven events that engaged both current freshmen and incoming students, launched its official chapter website, and established a scholarship committee dedicated to providing a scholarship for an incoming freshman. During the Spring 2026 semester, ALD plans to continue engaging first-year students and to

welcome additional new members.

OASIS also celebrates the professional achievement of Terron Dames and Cadmus Inness, who were selected to participate in a poster session at the 2025 Assessment Institute in Indianapolis. Their poster, *05N – Building a Robust Tutoring Centre: Funding, Marketing, and Data*, highlighted strategies for developing a comprehensive and highly effective tutoring center. The presentation emphasized personalized academic support tailored to individual learning styles, innovative teaching strategies, and



ongoing assessment practices aimed at enhancing student achievement, building academic confidence, and promoting long-term academic success.

Lastly, the OASIS team was invited to the Kentucky State University Office of International Student Advising and Transition Services to engage in academic support discussions and exchange best practices and methodologies. These collaborative conversations focused on the future of academic support services and reinforced OASIS's commitment to continuous improvement, innovation, and student-centered learning across diverse educational communities. Together, these initiatives reflect OASIS's continued commitment to student-centered learning, academic excellence, and meaningful engagement across the campus community.



Section III

Strategic Programs

Strategic Programs collaborate on initiatives with other units within the First- and Second-Year Student Success, Student Affairs, each college, Career Services, Academic Empowerment and Accessibility, Residence Life, and Counseling Services to ensure students develop an academic and social balance that will enrich their collegiate experience. Building on the HBCU tradition of nurturing potential, Strategic Programs leads initiatives that strengthen academic performance and retention. Through specialized resources for students on academic probation, we reaffirm our commitment to every student's success. Specifically, the Marauder Achievement Program provides targeted support and resources for students on academic probation, helping them regain academic standing through personalized coaching, structured success plans, and skill-building workshops.

Coming Spring 2026, Strategic Programs will host a series of student success interactive events and skill-building workshops to provide practical tools to enhance freshmen and sophomore academic performance and overall success. Each month will also include a "Marauder Study Lounge", a collaboration with Residence Life.

- January 2026:
 - Marauder Study Lounge – New Year, New Focus
 - Reset and Refocus Vision Night
- February 2026:
 - Marauder Study Lounge – Love Your Mind Study Space
 - Love and Leadership with Royal Court
- March 2026:
 - Marauder Study Lounge – Focus Up – Momentum Room
 - Make It or Break It: Mid-Semester Check-in



- April 2026:
 - Marauder Study Lounge – Preparation Mode
 - Procrastination to Progress Night with Greek Organizations

- May 2026:
 - Marauder Study Lounge – Finish Strong
 - End-of-Year Reflection and Celebration Night