

## Student 2 Student: Going Beyond the Locker and Lunchroom

How does it feel to be the new person in school? Awkward? Scary? Lonely?

Eighty-five students from 15 different schools in the continental U.S. attended training called Student 2 Student (S2S) from 21-23 October 2011 in Huntsville, AL. Students learned how to help other students feel less awkward, scared, and alone.

Three students and their sponsor from Lawton High School and MacArthur High School attended the training. The students learned how to analyze their program, set new goals, and reenergize the current S2S program. They participated in fun ice breakers to learn how to meet new people and find commonalities to be able to connect with them.

Students made a list of the cultural things that are unique to Southwest Oklahoma. Things like buffalo, prairie dogs, tornadoes, and Native American culture. They also made a list of sights to see, places to shop, and places to hang out with friends. This module is called "Finding the Way."

After the students broke into groups, they talked about the academics at their school. They soon realized every one of the 15 schools were different. A student needs this information to be able to make the best curriculum choices for his\her career path. This module is called "Academics: the Process, the Requirements, and the Eligibility."

However, the third module, "Relationships" is the most important. The instructor, Paul Callen, spoke about acceptance, trust and attributes. He told the students if they are phony, they will not be trusted by the student body. Trust is the most important aspect of relationships. Without it, there is no relationship. Based on this, the creed and philosophy of S2S was born; 100% acceptance of everyone.

In addition to trust, communication keeps a relationship going. Based on this important factor, the students learned many different techniques to advertise the S2S program. They learned to be in every activity, event, and all the classrooms. When they include all students from all cultures, backgrounds, and beliefs, they will be able to truly touch everyone at their high school and make all new students feel welcomed; thus going beyond the locker and lunchroom, Student 2 Student.

