

# 10 Ways to Build Belonging on Your Campus



1. Bring students together to create intentional connections, structure teams thoughtfully, and design spaces that encourage belonging (Sense of Belonging, 2023)
2. Encourage students to bring their authentic selves to the community (Huppert, 2017) by inviting opinions and perspectives into conversations, asking for input, and being clear about how decisions are made (Sense of Belonging, 2023)
3. Engage in purposeful storytelling. Encourage students to share stories to dissolve interpersonal barriers and help them be seen (Reilly, 2017)
4. Demonstrate active listening during conversations, meetings and classes by avoiding interruptions and asking thoughtful follow-up questions (Reilly, 2017)
5. Help build trusting relationships through formal or informal mentorship programs (Sense of Belonging, 2023)
6. Recognize unique efforts and accomplishments to make individual students feel valued (Huppert, 2017)
7. Provide flexibility in policies and environments such as hybrid study arrangements (Belonging Barometer 3.0, 2023)
8. Create intentional programming to build a sense of belonging for students in their first days on campus (e.g., in campus visits and/or new student orientation sessions) and create events and opportunities that are accessible for students with busy schedules throughout the year (SFSU Belonging Benchmark, 2024)
9. Educate staff on the key role they play in building a sense of belonging among students and increase training among faculty on how to foster a greater sense of belonging in their classrooms (SFSU Belonging Benchmark, 2024)
10. Measure your **Belonging Benchmark!** Our comprehensive tool helps Colleges and Universities enhance student outcomes by fostering a sense of Belonging on campus to improve retention and graduation rates and enhance students' self-confidence