October 27, 2013

Academic Transitions Program
306 E. Pine Knoll Dr.
PO Box: 5801
Flagstaff, AZ 86011

To The Academic Peer Leader Selection Committee:

I am pleased to have the opportunity to apply for an Academic Peer Leader position with the Academic Transitions Program, and would like to convey my interest in becoming a part of your team. Being a freshman in an NAU100 class, I have come to appreciate all of the information and opportunities the Academic Peer Leaders have given me, and I would love to give back to the incoming freshman classes. Moving from high school to college is a major transition, and I deeply appreciate this program because of its dedication to developing personal goals, conveying information about all of the valuable resources on campus, and creating an overall successful college experience. I would be honored to contribute my leadership and communication skills to an organization that strives to make NAU freshmen have the most successful transition into college possible.

My past participation in a leadership position has given me the training of effective communication skills with students from many different backgrounds, and the practice of being a positive support system. I had an experience related to an academic transition when I helped freshmen transfer from junior high to high school at Mountain View High School. During that time, I collaborated with two other peer leaders and led a group of fifteen freshmen in orientation which gave me valuable skills in team working. Some of the topics we taught the freshmen were how to effectively use the resources provided by the school, academic tips that would lead them to be successful, and social tips to keep them involved and to help them feel like a part of the school. This hands-on experience has taught me that most freshmen have similar fears and worries, and that these can be fixed with the right knowledge. This opportunity has also taught me that everyone comes from a different place, and everyone’s skills are at different levels. My communication skills were very helpful in this situation because being able to say the same thing in different ways really helped some of the freshmen understand directions that they didn’t get the first time.

Being an orientation leader also taught me how to be an available source of knowledge to the freshmen throughout the entire year. After orientation was over, I stayed connected with the students by calling the fifteen freshmen throughout the school year. I called them to invite them to football games, to ask them if they were interested in any clubs and wanted more information about them, and also to check up on how they were doing academically. Getting to know the students on a personal level motivated me to appreciate them coming to me with their questions and for advice.

I look forward to discussing how my strengths and experiences can be useful to the Academic Transitions Program. Thank you very much for your time and consideration.

Sincerely,

Nicole Carpino