

# COMMUTER STUDENTS WANT TO HAVE FUN TOO!

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# Mama dear, we're not the fortunate ones

- Underrepresented students are a main focus in international education
- BUT we forget commuter students
- What is a commuter student:
  - Commuters are usually defined as those students whose place of residence while attending college is not in a campus residence hall or in a fraternity or sorority house (Jacoby, 2000a; NRC 2001)



# When the working day is done...

- ❖ Juniors and Seniors
- ❖ Off Campus Housing
- ❖ Rental Market
- ❖ Using loans or parents
- ❖ Jobs or co-ops

- ★ High Financial Need
- ★ Lives with family
- ★ Works at least part time
- ★ Less traditional
- ★ Additional Responsibilities
- ★ Transfer Students



# Statistics



- Bridgewater State 10,990 Undergraduate and graduate students-
  - Commuter students make up more than half of the student population.
  - 50% of BSU is transfer students, 80% of all transfers are commuters!
  - 60.1 % of BSU undergraduate students live off campus or commute
  - Average undergraduate age is 21
- Northeastern- 1% of Freshmen but 51% of overall undergraduate population commutes
- Boston University- 25% commuter students
- UMass Lowell- 21% of Freshmen and 68% of undergraduates commute
- Emmanuel- 28.5% Commuter Students
- Wentworth- 24% of Freshmen and 48% of overall students commute

# Challenges they may face

- Most off campus students work at least part time regardless of student profile
- Most commuters are managing households and bills
- Financial Aid/Scholarships
- Taking care of children, siblings, and other relatives
- Study abroad may be the only chance to experience campus life



[What I wish my school knew about me, a commuter...](#)

# Supporting and reaching commuters



- Engaging students via social media
- Partner with different departments, alumni, and clubs
- Community announcements
- Classroom presentations
- Virtual presentations (youtube videos, phone calls)
- Community Colleges
- Tackle those excuses and help them achieve getting abroad

# Headliners

- Get in groups of 4-5
- The first person has 1 minute to tell your group what your international office is currently doing to support commuter students and how that could be improved.
- The rest of the group has 1 minute to use that information to come up with a “headline” to share the main idea
- Share your headline on poll everywhere
- Repeat for everyone in the group
- Share your headliner
  - Go to [pollev.com/ardenkazan965](https://pollev.com/ardenkazan965)
  - Or Text ardenkazan965 to 22333



# Your Headliners



KEEP IN TOUCH AND SHARE  
IDEAS WITH US!

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