

# Sense of Belonging and the Peer Educator

How Tutoring and SI Programs Can Increase Students' Sense of Belonging

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Chaffey College is a 2-year institution that serves roughly 20,000 students a semester

The Chaffey SI Program was founded in 2006 following the UMKC Model

For Spring 2018, the SI Program supports 100 sections of 25 courses in 14 disciplines with 48 SI Leaders

So far in Spring 2018, positive attendance reports show that roughly 1,400 Chaffey students have utilized SI sessions

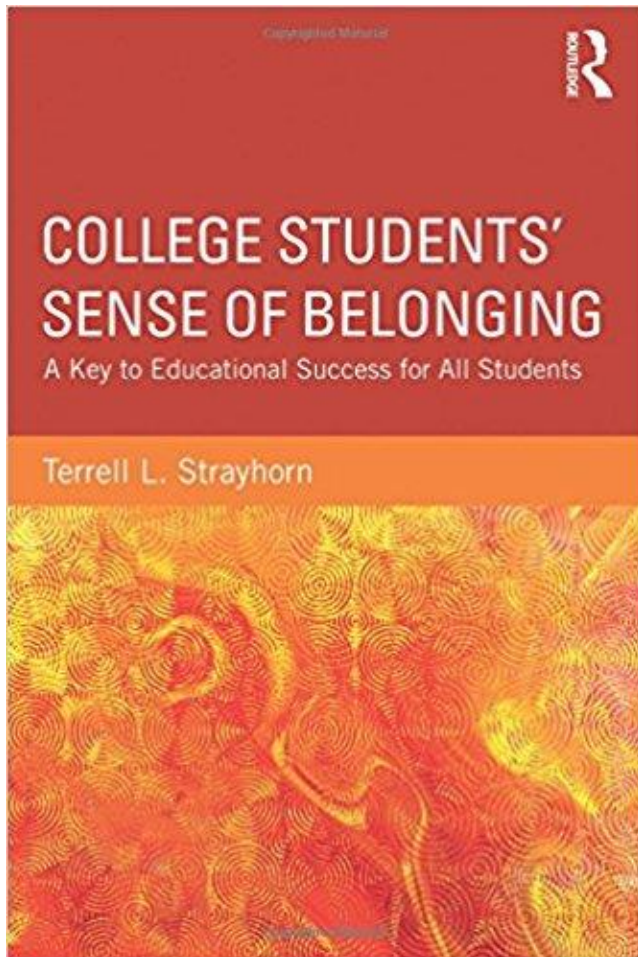
# Your Own Sense of Belonging

When or where do you feel a strong sense of belonging? What is necessary in your environment for you to feel as though you belong? How are you positively impacted by a strong sense of belonging, and how are you negatively impacted when you feel out of place?

# Why is a Sense of Belonging Important for Students and Peer Educators?

Now, think about the students, tutors, SI leaders, or other peer educators on your campus. Why is it important for them to also have a sense of belonging? What does your center, program, or college do to promote a sense of belonging in students and peer educators?

# What does the research tell us about the importance of a sense of belonging?



Sense of belonging and related terms: “Belongingness, relatedness, membership, community, acceptance, support, and affiliation” (Strayhorn, 2012, p. 8)

“A feeling that members matter to one another and to the group, and a shared faith that members’ needs will be met” (Osterman, 2000, p.324)

A lack of connection or sense of belonging is linked to high failure and attrition rates

Sense of belonging is of particular importance to marginalized students who already feel a lack of connection/belonging

Participation and engagement with campus events and resources relates to a positive sense of belonging

Belonging is a basic human need

# For Leaders

## Mandatory Professional Development

16 hours of pre-semester training

Monthly 3-hour trainings throughout the semester

3 Observation hours

6 hours of Professional Development

Self-care and appreciation training

Book Club

6-hour Reading Apprenticeship/Metacognition workshop

Reading Apprenticeship Workgroup

# For Leaders

Increased involvement and investment in SI Program

Discipline Leads

Leader participation in application workshop

Leader participation in interviews

Leader showcase

Returning leaders attending new leaders' second-day activities and first sessions

Training in SLOs and participation in creation of new SLO-support methods

# Professional Development Activities: What Do the Leaders Have to Say?

“This activity helped me understand the sense of belonging deeply. And how the sense of belonging exists in college, and how do we help the students find their sense of belonging. I will try to know more information about our college, like campus events or clubs, and recommend them to my SI students. Also, I will try to add more speaking in the class, and let students know they matter and we care about them!”

“I learned that belonging is a very important part of anyone’s life. Before even pursuing or furthering their education, people must fulfill their need to belong. They want to matter to someone. SI is a great environment to facilitate a place where people belong.”

“I will try to add more activities about life sharing. Trying to spend 5 or 10 minutes every week for sharing life moments lets them feel they matter. It lets them know we not only care about their studies but also about their lives. Let them feel the sense of belonging, and then they will feel more comfortable and bring more energy into their studies.”

“First, it helped me recognize that I had a lack of sense of belonging when I first attended here and part of that led to depression. I also didn’t know the resources the campus had. Recognizing this has helped me realize the importance of the core elements [from the reading]. I really want to pursue all of this to help as many students as I can.”

“My eyes (and brain) were opened up even more to the importance of promoting that sense of belonging, especially when the students from the Dreamers’ Club spoke to us. I knew that college should be a giant bundle of resources for students. But never really thought about the idea of this campus being a safe place for students—an extremely important fact.”



# For Students

Focus on sense of belonging in every SI session

SI leaders integrate at least one campus resource or event into their sessions every week

SI leaders invite campus representatives to speak at SI sessions, attend campus events with students, and visit campus resources during sessions

Leaders deliver activities related to High Hope, Growth Mindset, and Goal-setting

Campus resource awareness is integrated into ice breakers and opening and closing activities

Leaders share their own campus involvement and professional development activities to lead by example

# For students

## Special Population Ambassadors

SI leader assigned as ambassador to Brothers Forum (African American males) and EOPS (Extended Opportunity Programs and Services)

Lead sessions on transferrable skills (study skills, mindset, time management, etc.)

Lead sessions on student-identified areas of content weakness (math, composition, etc.)

Encourage attendance in course-specific SI sessions

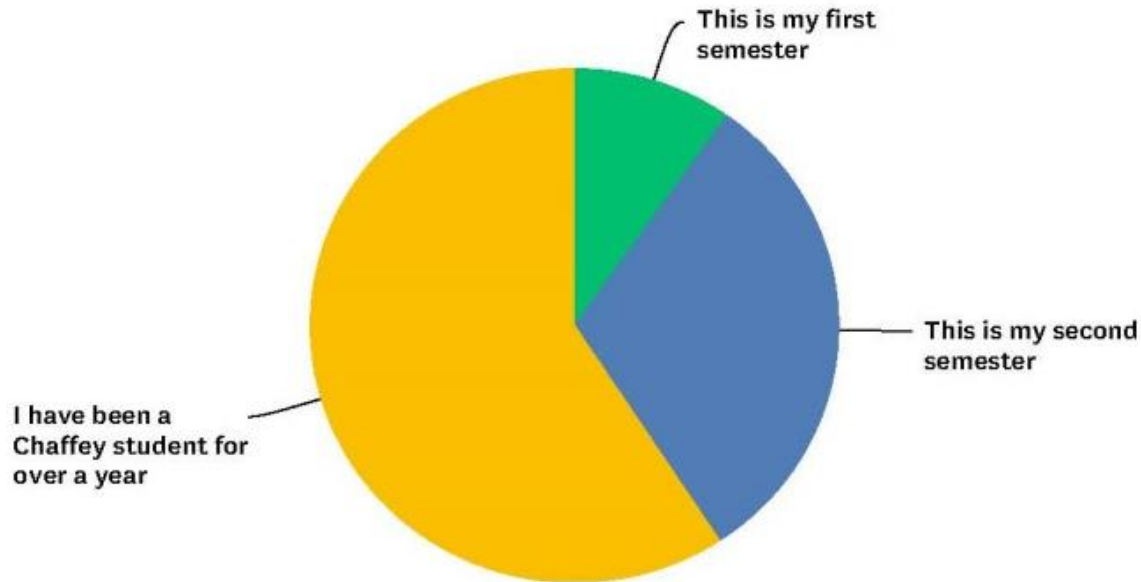
Recruit potential candidates for SI positions

# What do students have to say?

Sense of Belonging survey administered in Spring  
2018

# Q1 How many semesters have you attended Chaffey College?

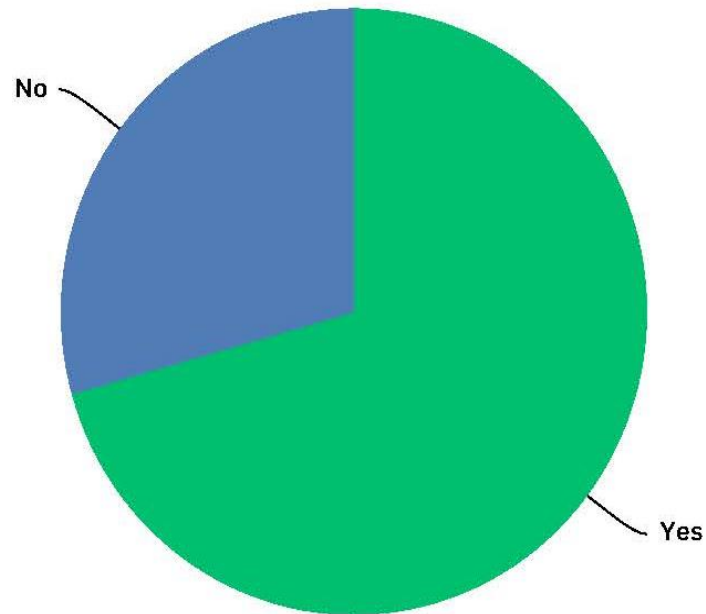
Answered: 184 Skipped: 0



ANSWER CHOICES	RESPONSES	
This is my first semester	9.78%	18
This is my second semester	30.98%	57
I have been a Chaffey student for over a year	59.24%	109
TOTAL		184

## Q2 Is this your first semester attending SI sessions?

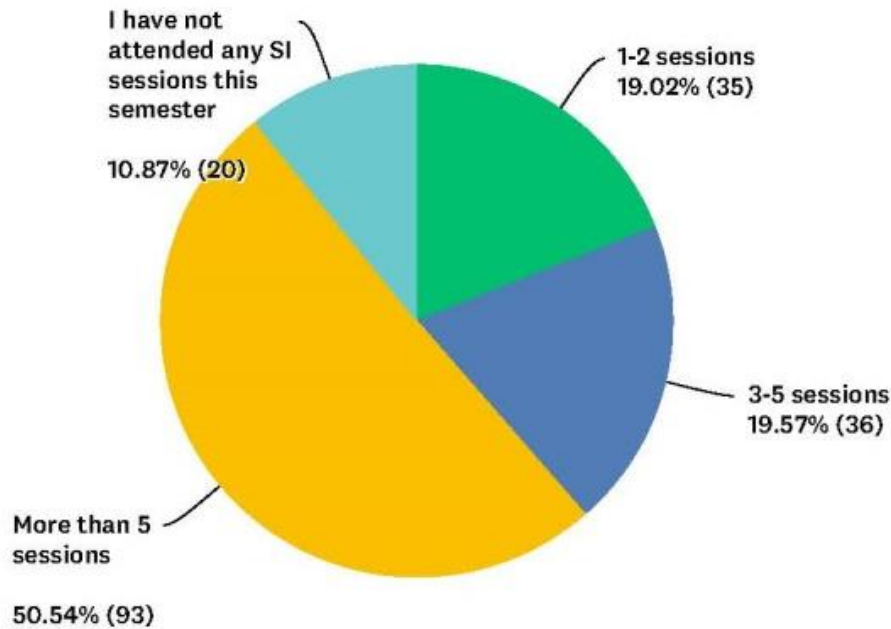
Answered: 184 Skipped: 0



ANSWER CHOICES	RESPONSES	
Yes	70.65%	130
No	29.35%	54
TOTAL		184

# Q3 Roughly how many SI sessions have you attended this semester?

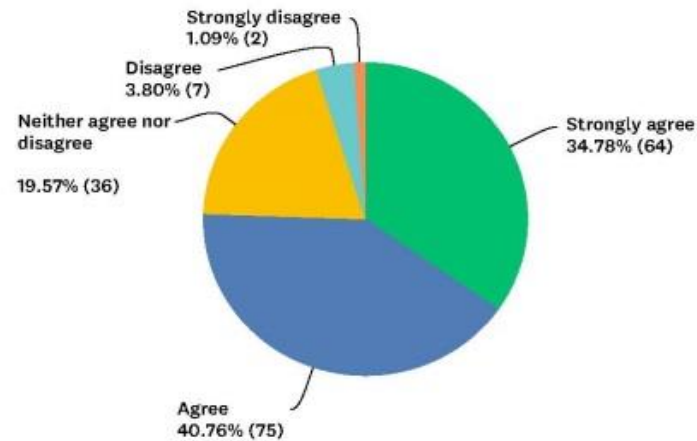
Answered: 184 Skipped: 0



ANSWER CHOICES	RESPONSES	
1-2 sessions	19.02%	35
3-5 sessions	19.57%	36
More than 5 sessions	50.54%	93
I have not attended any SI sessions this semester	10.87%	20
TOTAL		184

## Q4 My awareness of campus resources and events has grown as a result of SI

Answered: 184 Skipped: 0



ANSWER CHOICES	RESPONSES	
Strongly agree	34.78%	64
Agree	40.76%	75
Neither agree nor disagree	19.57%	36
Disagree	3.80%	7
Strongly disagree	1.09%	2
TOTAL		184

### Student comments

“Every week I am aware of another resource Chaffey has to offer because of [SI leader]!”

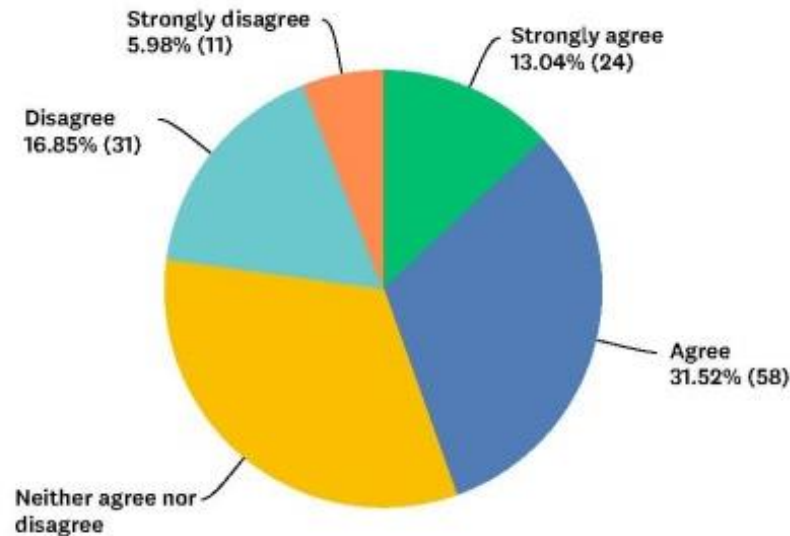
“[SI leader] always advertises events going on campus at the beginning of each session.”

“Yes, because he keeps explaining them to us!”

“It made me aware of other SI sessions I didn’t know were offered, as well as other programs.”

## Q5 I have attended campus events or utilized campus resources that I learned about in SI

Answered: 184 Skipped: 0



ANSWER CHOICES	RESPONSES	
Strongly agree	13.04%	24
Agree	31.52%	58
Neither agree nor disagree	32.61%	60
Disagree	16.85%	31
Strongly disagree	5.98%	11
TOTAL		184

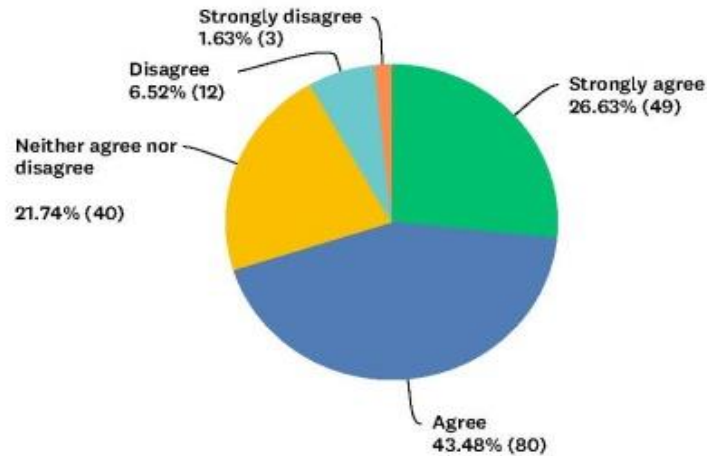
### Student comments

“No time, otherwise I would go.”



## Q6 As a result of SI, I feel more connected to the Chaffey campus community

Answered: 184 Skipped: 0



ANSWER CHOICES	RESPONSES	
Strongly agree	26.63%	49
Agree	43.48%	80
Neither agree nor disagree	21.74%	40
Disagree	6.52%	12
Strongly disagree	1.63%	3
TOTAL		184

### Student comments

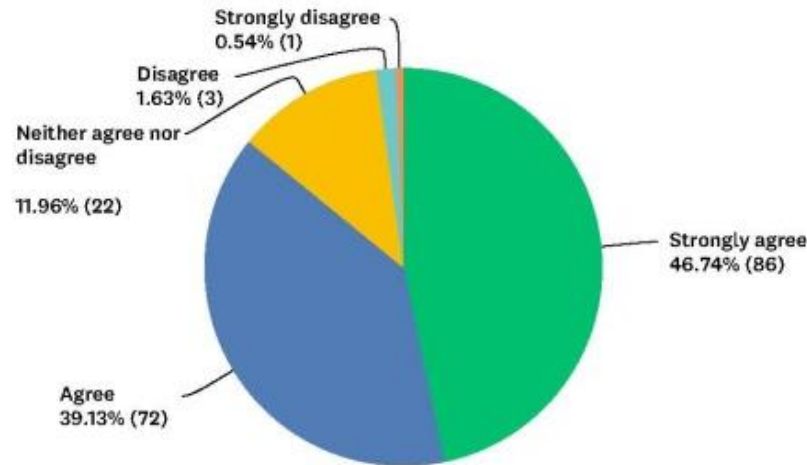
“I came here on a Saturday just for [SI leader]!”

“I feel free to ask questions.”

“It makes the class more like a family class!”

## Q7 SI Sessions make me feel supported as a Chaffey student

Answered: 184 Skipped: 0



ANSWER CHOICES	RESPONSES	
Strongly agree	46.74%	86
Agree	39.13%	72
Neither agree nor disagree	11.96%	22
Disagree	1.63%	3
Strongly disagree	0.54%	1
TOTAL		184

### Student comments

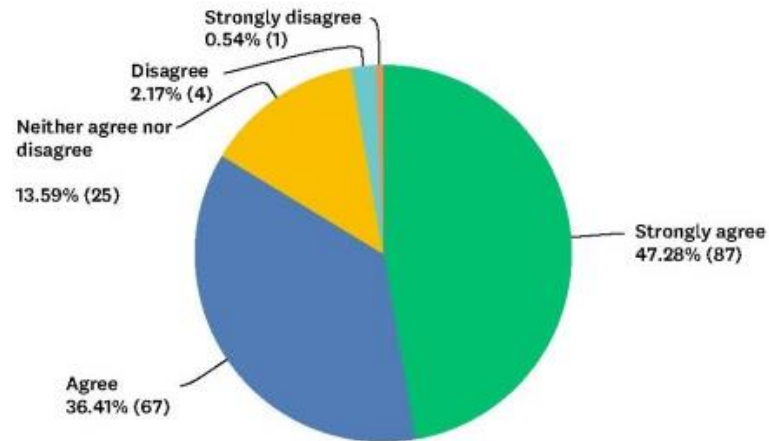
“I’m more open to asking question on things I don’t clearly understand.”

“SI is a great program set up for students. I don't know what I would do with out SI sometimes. I just wish there were more available time slots. If there were, I would be able to attend more sessions.

“This is has been really the most helpful resource I have so far used here at Chaffey

## Q8 SI gives me confidence that I can overcome obstacles in reaching my academic goals

Answered: 184 Skipped: 0



ANSWER CHOICES	RESPONSES	
Strongly agree	47.28%	87
Agree	36.41%	67
Neither agree nor disagree	13.59%	25
Disagree	2.17%	4
Strongly disagree	0.54%	1
TOTAL		184

### Student comments

“I feel 10 times more confident because of [SI leader].”

“SI session re-affirm what I learn in class, so I feel more confident that I can do way better in my group work and exams.”

“I feel that SI will help me when I encounter something that I don’t understand.”

“[SI leader] is proud of me.”

# Future Plans

Continued partnerships with Brothers Forum and EOPS

Ambassador partnerships with Special Populations Programs like student athletes, LGBTQ students, DREAMers, and other student populations identified in the Chaffey Equity Plan

Structured professional development for leaders (committee model)

Appreciation events for SI students

Targeted outreach for special populations programs and students

# Final Reflection

Implementation Plans and Appreciation

Questions, concerns, suggestions? Reach out!

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