Faculty Matter Tip #1:
Reach out to your students BEFORE the first day of class.

The start of the new academic year is a special time - for students and faculty alike - full of hope and promise and excitement mixed with a little apprehension and nervousness. With this email, we inaugurate a new email feature … regular “Faculty Matter” teaching tips. Our goal is to provide proven concrete suggestions of relatively easy-to-implement activities that will help you engage your students and support their success. Feel free to adopt these as is, or to modify them to better suit your needs or context. These tips will be archived on the Provost’s Academic Spotlight blog under the category “Faculty Matter”. We invite you to use the comment tool on the blog posts to share your own suggestions and tips.

- Send your students a brief email introducing yourself, conveying your enthusiasm about the course and about meeting them. You can send you message through your class roster on MySJSU or through Canvas.
- Consider giving them a very simple assignment – a question to think about, an artifact to bring to class, something related to the course content that will “prime the pump” for whatever topic(s) you want to discuss at the first class meeting.

Remember to follow up on what you asked them to do: Have them share their answers/what they brought. If the class is large, students can share in small groups, with a few volunteers reporting out to the entire class.