GAPS AREA MEETING PLAN

*January: Caring for Seniors Well*



**Goals:**

* Develop vision for caring for seniors well.
* Catalyze successful launch of Senior Programming.
* Ensure GAPS Data is current.

**Prep Needed:**

* Make sure you have access to the videos (see links in outline below).

**Meeting Plan:**

**Vision Cast/Teaching Skill of the Month** *(15 Minutes)*

Think of students or friends that have struggled after graduation. Write their names on a sticky note and post them on the wall. Maybe they couldn’t find a good community or didn’t know how to manage their finances. Some may have even walked away from their faith. [If you’d like you could insert a personal story here]. Let’s take a minute to pray for these friends, that they would encounter God wherever they are today.

Transitioning to life after college is challenging, particularly if you don’t have the skills and framework to navigate post-college life. We long to “develop world changers” in InterVarsity, and a vital part of that is preparing our students to thrive after college.

There are three key things that we can do to help prepare our seniors well:

1. Care for and teach them during in Senior Programming.
2. Help them process during Transition Interviews.
3. Invite them to transition from student involvement to an ongoing partnership with a GAPS ask.

Today we want to focus on how to serve our seniors well through senior programming. We don’t want to ignore seniors and what they are going through. They are unsure of their future and in the midst of a lot of transition. For some, the college has developed into a known and safe environment, and suddenly there is a lot of risks and unknowns. This often leads seniors to feel a mix of excitement and anticipation along with anxiety and fear in the midst of their transition. Let’s [watch a testimony](https://vimeo.com/507152575) that shares the value and impact of senior programming. [Show Video]. *You can also use* [*this video*](https://vimeo.com/463040534) *for training staff if you didn’t in December.*

Remember, a quality senior program has three vital outcomes:

1. Help seniors feel cared for and appreciated.
2. Provides practical skills to aid in seniors’ transition to life after college (i.e. How to manage finances, find a church, build relationships, etc.)
3. Serves as a clear marker of transition from student involvement to alumni partnership.

**Workshop Space for Skill of the Month** *(30-40 Minutes)*

*Note to Area Directors, feel free to use this time in the way that is most helpful for your staff. Below is a list of ideas of how to use this time.*

1. Explain your expectations for the area.
   1. How many meetings?
   2. Campus specific or area-wide?
   3. Who is leading these?
      1. Consider investigating how alumni can help with this.
2. Explore [curriculum](https://drive.google.com/drive/folders/1xR0BIGrGl6zIhu2B3QOwLJ091YbD4uIi?usp=sharing).
   1. Show staff the [guide to sessions](https://drive.google.com/file/d/1jXYykDO67i4sW2kcIa8-j-MiWLGLKMrA/view?usp=sharing) document.
   2. Decide on sessions.
   3. Begin to prep sessions.
3. Invite & Follow Up with Seniors
   1. Create a list of all graduating seniors in the area.
   2. Have staff invite or follow up with seniors via text or email.

**Communal Q&A** *(5-10 Minutes)*

Allow space staff to ask any questions they have regarding GAPS this month.

**Update GAPS Data** *(5 Minutes)*

Give staff time to update their GAPS data in Donor Elf.

**Meeting Action Steps & Follow Up:**

* Ensure every staff has a plan for senior programming and knows the immediate next step they need to take.
* GAPS Data Updated by 1/31.