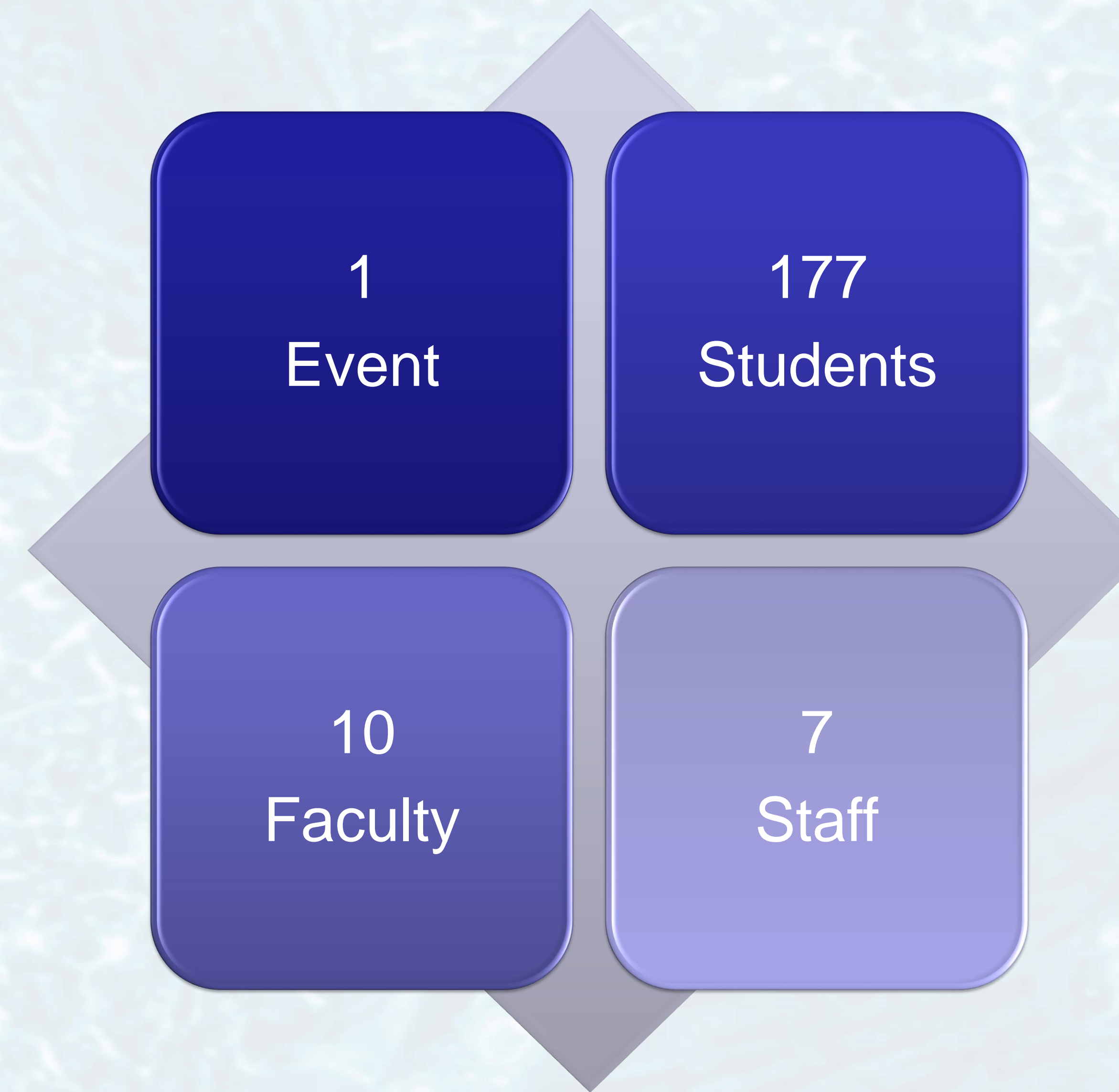


INTRODUCTION

- As a first step of an innovative interprofessional (IP) curriculum for the College of Allied Health Sciences, new students participated in an hour-long interprofessional event regarding survival during orientation.
- Immediately following the exercise there was a discussion that focused on the significance of teamwork and the need for effective communication in teamwork to help the teams survive.
- Participating disciplines:
Addiction and Rehabilitation Counseling, Audiology, Clinical Lab Science, Dietetics, Occupational Therapy, Physical Therapy, Physician Assistant Studies, and Speech Therapy
- During the Fall semester, students will have additional means of collaboration in an IP course dedicated to teaching communication, values/ethics, roles/responsibilities and social determinants of health

BY THE NUMBERS



ACTIVITY

- Survivor* is a team-based exercise designed to introduce basic concepts of IPE-- the importance of teamwork and effective communication among team members.
- Survivor* is designed to be fun and informative as individuals first rank a given list of items by importance to survival following an airplane crash. Second, they rank the items by team agreement. Last, the moderator explains the expert rankings determined by real life past survivors' experiences.
- Participants then examine their individual scores (comparing their rankings to the experts and the team scores which indicate their likelihood of survival alone or by team decisions.
- The outcomes are that students learn that teams make better decisions than individuals alone, and for those individuals who survived better than their team, the questions arise concerning effective communication—both talking and listening.



BEST IDEAS AND PRACTICES

- Gathering students at orientation before external stressors are present
- Preassign students from different disciplines to form the teams
- Ask table questions for student input about teamwork and communication
- Allow for sufficient time for students to give their input
- Award prizes for best and worst survival performances
- Create a 'no pressure' zone for the event

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UNINTENDED CONSEQUENCES

- Evaluation survey indicated that the students asked for more time for the event for incoming students next year.
- The decision to include both undergraduate and graduate students together resulted in good table discussion, but there were small differences noted in the commitment to learning more about forthcoming college-wide course plans re IPE and IPE concepts.

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