### Questions
- When students first reach Parkland College or have been enrolled for a semester or two, how is it that students create relationships with others and get involved in the school?
- Is it difficult to get involved at Parkland College?
- Is it difficult to make friends?

### Hypothesis
- Students would find it difficult to get involved because Parkland is a commuter campus
- Students come to get the instruction they need, then leave
- Students would feel that they know people, but have not made many close relationships

### Method
- A series of recorded conversation based interviews were conducted to hear directly from real Parkland College students on their experiences in meeting people and getting involved

### Results
#### Are students involved?
- The majority of students interviewed were not actively involved in Parkland College

#### Why not?
- “My motivation just isn’t there”
- “For me personally, trying a new thing, getting into a new group of people that I don’t know, that’s kind of a big jump for me”
- “I don’t hear about it a lot”
- Some feel they are too busy
- “It’s go to class, go to work, go home, do homework, repeat”
- “It’s a trip, you’ve got to make it worth it to come”

#### Are students making friends at Parkland?
Most students interviewed estimated that they have met under 25 people they would call friends at Parkland College (Included acquaintances from classes)

#### What kind of friends do students have? (In general)
- Students from Parkland?--------Yes
- Are they close friends?----------No
- People from before Parkland? ---Yes
- Are they close friends?---------Yes
  “More so (friends) before...It’s a mix, but... it’s more people from before than from Parkland”
  “I think I have formed good friendships with people that I’ve met at Parkland, but maybe not as important, long-lasting…”
  “(Some) are going to be long lasting, but (others) I’m developing”

#### Do students make an effort to make friends?
- Yes
  “I’m just one of those open people… Those are connections that you never know you may need”
- No
  - Most don’t approach people and try to make friendships
  - Most students let friendships happen on their own
  Some are willing to make friends, but appear to be unwilling
  - Some sit alone or in a guarded, closed off manor
  - Some wear headphones: “Kind of a turn off for people”

### Conclusion
- Students are hesitant to get involved

**Further research:**
- Asking more students for their personal accounts
- Sending out a paper survey to gather more data about
- Asking organization coordinators about their experiences with students getting involved in organizations
- Ask U of I and Parkland Online students about their experiences with friendships and getting involved in their schools/programs

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