

**University of Delaware
Office of Residence Life**

2008-2009 Program Plan

With the exception of the floor and building meetings held at opening, all activities detailed in this plan are attendance-optional.

Introduction

Upon the first day of hall opening, students will encounter Arrival Survival Teams and will meet a welcoming resident assistant (RA) staff as they pick up keys, activity and event information, orientation materials, safety information, and get an early opportunity to join hall government. On their floor, the student will see a set of information boards with tips, staff contact information, welcome signs on their door, and the RA's best effort to decorate floor public areas in an informative

idea that students have significant opportunities for peer dialogue and idea exchange in the residence hall setting. Peer interaction is not only one of the most significant determinants of student satisfaction, but a powerful influence in overall student success in college. Establishing

The programs and activities in this plan are designed to anticipate and react to what is occurring in the local, national and global landscape. Our students will have the opportunity to participate in dialogues attuned to real world problems and issues. *Traditional Residence Hall Activities:*
While the task at hand is the development of a program plan, the Office of Residence Life coordinates the following activities. Some of these are mentioned in the

August/September

	CCC Structure and Info	Visual display of CCC (residence hall government) structure and election information.	3	
	Floor Visuals	Floor visuals to announce programs and activities and create a welcoming environment for community members.	7	
	Latin American Heritage Month	Information about the Latin American community in the United States.	2	
	Student Leadership Opportunities	Information about the different leadership opportunities available on campus and around the city of Newark.	3	
	National Campus Fire Safety Month	Information from the Office of Occupational Health & Safety about campus fire safety.	3	
	Study Tips	Academic tips, such as note taking skills and how to study for exams.	3 & 5	X
	Goal Setting	Recommendation on how to set achievable and measurable goals.	3 & 5	X
	Compelling Question: Presidential Elections	Interactive bulletin board on which residents can post their answers to the following		

Work to meet the general safety, security, and personal needs of students. Typical issues during this time are campus familiarization, academic environment adjustment, homesickness, roommate conflicts, test anxiety, balancing social and academic responsibilities, first parties, long distance or new relationships, and establishing study habits. (all areas-all staff)
Administrative processes: early check-in, general check-in, opening, fire drills, mail/packages, keys, duty rounds, office hours, etc.

Other

Operational Processes

3

October

	Title	Description	Program Goals Connection	Support for Academics
Programs	Personal Development Series	This program series will be developed based on assessment by building staff and student input. Topics may include time management, transition, home-sickness, test taking skills, budgeting, exercise and nutrition, body image, stress management, conflict resolution, negotiating new roles with parents, hygiene.	1, 3, & 5	
	Code of Conduct Chat & Chew	Provide Q&A session about the Code of Conduct/behavior expectations facilitated by GA for Community Standards and Complex Coordinators. (building-staff, GA)	4	
Social Events	Freshman Field Day	1 st		

	Halloween Events	A variety of events hosted by CCC to celebrate Halloween. (complex-students)		
Other	Operational Processes	Student conduct conversations, keys/cards, triples assistance, room changes, fire drills, mail/packages, duty rounds, office hours (RA & HD), crisis response, etc. (all areas-all staff)	3	

November

	Title	Description	Program Goals Connection	Support for Academics
Programs	What Matters?	This self-reflection activity will allow students the opportunity to explore and examine a variety of things that they value (places, people, memories, goals, etc.). This exploration process, and subsequent discussion with peers, will help them explore motivations for their own and their peers' internal decision-making processes. (building-staff)	1, 2, & 3	
	Personal Development Series	This program series will be developed based on assessment by building staff and student input. Topics may include time management, transition, home-sickness, test taking skills, budgeting, exercise and nutrition, body image, stress management, conflict resolution, negotiating new roles with parents, hygiene.	1, 3, & 5	
	Thanksgiving Dinners	Floor will join for a Thanksgiving meal.		

		They will also be educated on the broad and specific consequences of their cyber actions. (building-staff)		
	Career Services Series	In partnership with the Bank of America Career Services Center and the Center for Counseling and Student Development, this series is designed to inform students about available services. (building-staff)	1 & 5	

December

	Title	Description	Program Goals Connection	Support for Academics
Programs	End of Semester Donation Drives	Collection of clothes and non-perishable foods for donation to various charitable organizations. (building-staff)	2 & 7	
	Personal Development Series	This program series will be developed based on assessment by building staff and student input. Topics may include time management, transition, home-sickness, test taking skills, budgeting, exercise and nutrition, body image, stress management, conflict resolution, negotiating new roles with parents, hygiene.	1, 3, & 5	
	Consumer Decision-Making	This program will provide students with opportunities to learn about environmental sustainability issues related to retail stores. Guest speakers and faculty members will be involved in the planning and facilitation. (complex-staff)	7	
Social Events	Study Breaks / Stress Relievers	Each building will host an event during finals week to help students take a brief break from studying. (building-staff)		X
Floor Meeting	End of the Semester Meeting	RAs provide information about the process and procedure for semester closing. RAs will also provide information about the open room change period. (floor-RA)	3	
RA Conversations	General Follow Up	RAs will continue to build their relationships with students through general interactions. (floor-RA)	1, 2, & 3	
Bulletin Boards	Closing Information	Closing and room change information posted on each floor.		
	Charity Options	Interactive bulletin board on which students share their favorite charitable organizations.	6 & 7	
	Finals Success Tips	Information about how to prepare and study for final exams.	5	X
	“Have you considered this?”	Sustainable Vacationing: Information about eco-friendly vacation locations and tips for traveling in an environmentally friendly manner.	7	
	Sexual Health Information	Information on healthy decision-making and sexual health resources on campus.	3	
	Celebrate Your Successes	Ongoing floor visual: Students can post representations of their achievement of an academic goal for the month (RAs have certificate template).	1	X
	Citizens of the Month	Monthly recognition of residents who make positive contributions to the community.	1, 3 & 7	
CCC Initiatives	Student Leader Initiatives	On-going events initiated, planned, and organized by CCC student leaders. (complex-students)		
Other	Operational Processes	Work to meet general safety, security, and personal needs of students. (all areas-all staff)	3	

January

	Program Goals Connection	Support for Academics
opportunities in the residential complex and surrounding area. In 1994 Congress passed the King Holiday and Service Day as a national day of volunteer service. Instead of a school, Congress asked Americans of all backgrounds and ages to act by turning community concerns into citizen action.	2, 3, 6, & 7	
It will be developed based on assessment by building staff and may include time management, transition, home-sickness, test anxiety, exercise and nutrition, body image, stress management, negotiating new roles with parents, hygiene.	1, 3, & 5	
provision for the few students that remain during winter session		
residents enrolled in winter session to further the sense of community. (floor-RA)	1, 2, & 3	
Signage information posted on each floor.		

Board on which students share their favorite charitable

February

	Title	Description	Program Goals Connection	Support for Academics
Programs	Freshman Year Philanthropy Kick-off	Each complex will initiate a philanthropic endeavor for the spring semester. (complex-staff) Rodney and Dickinson: Soap for Hope (http://www.udel.edu/PR/UpDate/01/15/resident.html) Russell and Independence: Heifer International (http://www.heifer.org/)	2, 4, & 7	

Personal Development Series

	African American Heritage Month	Information about the African American heritage month activities.	2	
	Spring Semester Goals	Students may post their goals for the semester on the bulletin board	5	X
	Living Options: On vs. Off Campus Living	Information about on- and off- campus living options.	1 & 3	

March

	Title	Description	Program Goals Connection	Support for Academics
Programs	Freshman Year Philanthropy (continued)	See February for description	2, 4, & 7	
	Personal Development Series	This program series will be developed based on assessment by building staff and student input. Topics may include time management, transition, home-sickness, test taking skills, budgeting, exercise and nutrition, body image, stress management, conflict resolution, negotiating new roles with parents, hygiene.	1, 3, & 5	
Social Events	Roommate Challenge	Students will have the opportunity to find out how much they know about their roommate and floor mates while participating in a friendly competition. (complex-staff)		
Floor Meeting	Recyclemania	RAs will provide information about closing for Spring Break, emphasizing spring break safety. Residents will also discuss the upcoming campus wide initiatives around Recyclemania. (floor-RA)	1 & 7	

This conversation will be a continuation from February. Students will have the

RA Conversations Discovery Wheel (continued)

Other	Operational Processes	Work to meet the general safety, security, and personal needs of students. (all areas-all staff) Administrative processes: room changes, fire drills, mail/packages, keys, duty rounds, office hours, etc.	3	
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April

	Title	Description	Program Goals Connection	Support for Academics
	Dueling Documentaries - Environmental Sustainability Closing the Loop	Two documentaries will be shown; each offering a different perspective on issues related to environmental sustainability. Students will have an opportunity to engage in conversations about the issues. Faculty members from related disciplines will be invited to help select the films, plan		

May

	Title	Description	Program Goals Connection	Support for Academics
	Trading Stuff	Students can bring their unwanted items at the end of the year to trade with one another. Unwanted items will be transported to UDon't Need It Campaign site (building-staff)	1, 2, & 7	

Proposed Activities – Upper-Division Residence Hall Areas

The upper-division residence halls include Central, Christiana Towers, Gilbert/Harrington, James Smith Hall, Ray Street, and the buildings currently under construction on Laird Campus. Each of these areas includes a mix of approximately 4000 sophomore, junior, and senior students. The upper-division halls have unique characteristics and traditions resulting from special programs such as Special Interest Housing, Upper-class Honors housing, and apartment-style living. Naturally, the wider variety of options affects the programming for these areas.

The upper-division plan includes many activities and programs from the first-year program designed to promote student interaction, attend to social needs (with a special emphasis on transfer students), and generate opportunities for students to contribute to community life. The upper-division plan attempts to continue reflection and exploration of citizenship with students while also asking them to examine their undergraduate goals and take advantage of the multiple ways the University can help them achieve success.

While we attempt to offer multiple opportunities to students who may be experiencing a “sophomore slump” in terms of clarifying goals and actions, we also recognize the wealth of talent and skills in the student body; upper-division students are able to openly contribute to and sha

Most upper-division building staffs will work in collaboration with the Bank of America Career Service Center and with the Center for Counseling and Student Development to present information to students and provide opportunities for students to get connected to these services.

Monthly Posting:

A monthly posting will be crafted, with the participation of appropriate units, to offer information on major commemorative dates such as Latino Heritage Month, African American Heritage Month, World AIDS day, and others. The monthly posting will also provide students with a listing of activities, events, and campus lectures should they wish to explore the topic further.

August/September

	Title	Description	Program Goals Connection	Support for Academics
	Welcome Newsletter	This newsletter will introduce students to the residential complex and will be distributed to student rooms prior to fall move-in. (complex-staff)	1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, & 7	
	Personal Development Series	This program series will be developed based on assessment by building staff and student input. Topics may include stress management, conflict resolution, exercise and nutrition, body image, healthy relationships, off campus living skills, financial responsibility, and group dynamics.	1, 3, & 5	
	Career Connections	On a monthly basis each complex, in collaboration with the Career Services Center, will provide opportunities to student to explore career related topics which may include		

	Initial Meeting	RAs will introduce themselves to each resident on their floor, welcome him/her to the floor community, and answer any opening-day questions. This initial connection is also purposeful for the RA to show their availability to students. (floor-RA)		
RA Conversations	Goal Setting	Building on the September floor meeting, this optional RA-student dialogue lays the foundation for a mutually beneficial relationship. Moreover, the conversation allows the student to construct and verbalize his/her personal and career goals while considering strategies to achieve those goals. (floor-RA)	1, 5	
	Roommate Agreements	Those students opting to complete a roommate agreement will be able to develop strategies for respectful conversation and coexistence. Student pairs will also be encouraged to choose an environmentally sustainable goal and hold one another accountable for the achievement of that goal over the course of the semester. (roommate pairs-RA)		

		available to students.		
Campus Resource Connection	Student Activities Night	Staff will support the university and student activities through advertisement and support of student attendance at this event. (floor-RA)	1	
	Latino Heritage Month	Information related to Latino Heritage Month will be posted along with reflective questions. Campus events and opportunities will be advertised as additional opportunities for exploration of this topic. (complex-CC and Assistant Director)	1, 2	
Other	Administrative processes & responding to student needs	Work to meet the general safety, security, and personal needs of students. Administrative processes: early check-in, regular check-in/opening, RHR/IR conversations, keys/card administration, room changes, fire drills, packages, duty rounds, office hours, crisis response, etc).	3	

October

	Title	Description	Program Goals Connection	Support for Academics
Programs	Stakeholder Agreement	Through a group problem resolution activity, students will be able to analyze the impact of their actions within the context of their daily lives and the democratic processes that take place in the residence halls by voluntarily engaging in a discussion with their community about the connections between environmentally sustainable decision-making, their community, and citizenship. (floor-RA,HD)	1, 3, 6, 7	
	Personal Development Series	This program series will be developed based on assessment by building staff and student input. Topics may include stress management, conflict resolution, exercise and nutrition, body image, healthy relationships, off campus living skills, financial responsibility, and group dynamics.	1, 3, & 5	
	Career Connections	On a monthly basis each complex, in collaboration with the Career Services Center, will provide opportunities to student to explore career related topics which may include the interview skills, new professional etiquette, returning home, and alumni speakers.	1, 5, & 7	
	Service Initiatives	Upper-division students will be encouraged to identify one concern they have and go through the experience of making a complaint, suggestion, or recommendation for change to a political body or representative. Resources and contacts will be provided. (complex-staff)	3, 6	
	Know Your Rights	A campus-wide program that will provide students with opportunities to learn about their rights and responsibilities as UD students. (campus-CC, Assistant Director, OJA asked to assist)	3, 4, 6	
Social Events	SIH Communities' Events (Ray St.)	Each community will offer a program based on their theme.		
	Weekend Events	On Friday and Saturday evenings residents are invited to one of the lounges for various social activities.		
	Art Under the Stars (Central)	Students will have the opportunity to attend an event centered on art in all forms (music, painting, dancing, etc).		
Floor Meeting	Career Services Presentation	After being trained by the staff of the Career Services Center, Hall Directors will discuss resources necessary for internships and vocational searches. This presentation will be developed in collaboration with the Career Services Center Staff. (floor-HD)	5	
RA Conversations	General Follow-up	Students will have the opportunity to talk with their RA about service initiatives, classes, and life on the floor. (floor-RA)	1, 2	

Bulletin Boards	World Headlines	<p>A current event reflecting an ethical issue will be selected and various angles will be portrayed through at least 5 national and international newspaper sources in a bulletin board format. (floor-CC, Assistant Director)</p> <p>A bulletin board will highlight a university employee and their contributions to an environmentally sustainable society through</p>	4	X
	UD: Environmentally Sustainably Staffed			

November

	Title	Description	Program Goals Connection	Support for Academics
	Purchasing Power	Each complex will hold a program to provide students with the opportunity to learn		

CCC Initiatives	Student Leader Initiatives	On-going events initiated, planned, and organized by CCC student leaders.		
Other	Administrative processes & responding to student needs	<p>Work to meet the general safety, security, and personal needs of students.</p> <p>Administrative processes: Thanksgiving closing, RHR/IR conversations, keys/card administration, room changes, fire drills, packages, duty rounds, office hours, crisis response, etc).</p>		

December

	Title	Description	Program Goals Connection	Support for Academics
	Personal Development Series	This program series will be developed based on assessment by building staff and student input. Topics may include stress management, conflict resolution, exercise and nutrition, body image, healthy relationships, off campus living skills, financial		

CCC Initiatives

Study Breaks

Complex Community Councils will be encouraged to provide study breaks to relieve

January

Title

Description

**Program
Goals
Connection**

February

	Title	Description	Program Goals Connection	Support for Academics
	Service Initiatives	Recyclemania kick-off- students will participate in campus-wide activity to promote recycling efforts. (complex-staff)	3, 7	
Programs	Career Connections	On a monthly basis each complex, in collaboration with the Career Services Center, will provide opportunities to student to explore career related topics which may include		

		opportunities for exploration of this topic. (complex-CC and Assistant Director)		
	Vagina Monologues	Staff will advertise this event. (complex-staff)	2, 4	
	Housing Fair	Staff will advertise this event. (complex-staff)		
CCC Initiatives	Spring Budget Planning	Executive board members will draft a spring budget proposal for submission and approval.		
	Valentines Events	Complex Community Councils will be asked to plan a program related to Valentine's Day.		
	Student Leader Initiatives	On-going events initiated, planned, and organized by CCC student leaders.		

Other Administrative processes & responding to student needs

March

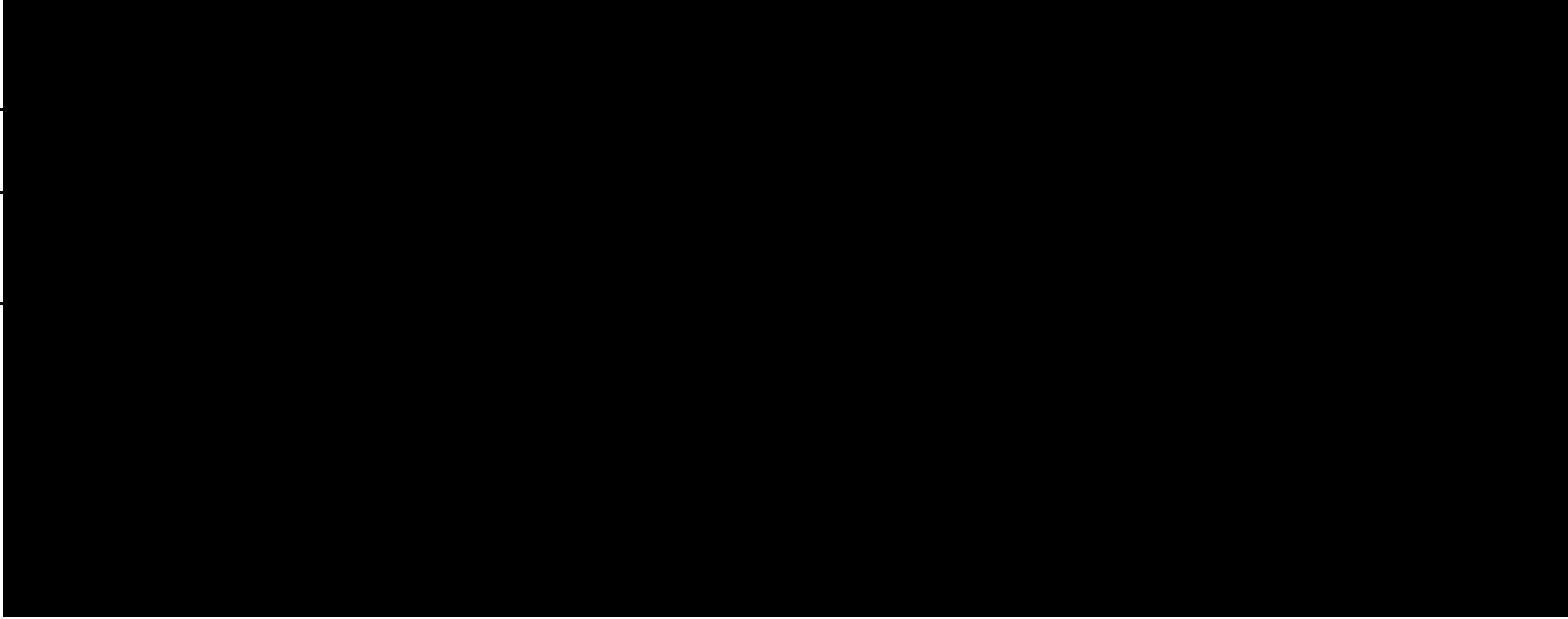
Title

Description

**Program
Goals
Connection**

**Support for
Academics**

		response, etc).		
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Bulletin Boards	World Headlines	A current event topic reflecting an ethical issue will be selected and various angles will be portrayed through at least 5 national and international newspaper sources in a bulletin board format. (floor-CC, Assistant Director)	4	
	Sexual Assault Awareness Month	Information about SAAM activities and events	2, 4	
	Earth Day	Promotion of Earth Day events and campus speakers	7	
	UD: Environmentally Sustainably Staffed	A bulletin board will highlight a university employee and their contributions to an environmentally sustainable society through their chosen vocation. This is meant to provide an example of the connections that exist between sustainable decision making, a community, and citizenship.	7	

Campus Resource
Connection

May

	Title	Description	Program Goals Connection	Support for Academics
	Debate: Environmental Sustainability Personal Development Series	Students who choose to participate in this campus-wide event will be able to explore their personal values, plan and deliver an argument, and engage in respectful dialogue with peers. This specific topic allows both participants and observers to consider the connections that exist between environmental sustainability, community, and citizenship. Faculty members will be asked to assist with the design and facilitation of these programs. (campus-staff) This program series will be developed based on assessment by building staff and	4, 6, 7	X

Appendix 1

The Life of a Resident Assistant at UD

It is important to note that the Residence Life program plan is simply one aspect of Residence Life at the University of Delaware. In reality, an RA's job includes advertising the programs, RA conversations, and floor meetings described in this plan (one third); social functions and relationship and community building activities (another third); and resource and administrative functions (the final third). Residence hall operations exist in a 24 hour-a-day framework and are multi-faceted. The program plan illustrates one such facet. This description has been prepared to describe the remaining two thirds of the RA job, the more traditional day-to-day activities that RAs engage in with students. Many of these activities serve as foundational elements of developing healthy, positive, and safe communities.

To narrate everything that happens in the residence halls outside of the program plan would likely add 50+ pages to the existing plan. Rather, the goal of this description is to provide an overview of the types of activities that occur that are typical, but which have intentionally not been illuminated in the preceding materials. It is hoped that this description will provide a useful context within which to understand the residence halls at UD.

Social Functions & Community and Relationship Building Activities:

After opening, every effort is made to build student-to-student connections in the residence halls. Achieving a sense of belonging for each student is one of the paramount roles of the RA. As such, floor dinners, ice-breakers, floor socials, birthday celebrations, and stress relievers play a steady role in the routine of floor life. These types of activities are easy to plan and initiate and RAs do so as a matter of course. Specific efforts are also taken to encourage students to plan and coordinate these activities in order to add to the overall frequency and variety. These opportunities are encouraged at floor meetings, in general conversations, and through discussions at hall government meetings.

Social integration is also a focus of more structured community development activities such as floor Community Agreements and roommate/suitemate/apartment agreements. While these activities serve the purpose of encouraging students to live comfortably together in very small and intimate spaces, they also encourage students to participate in peer-to-peer problem solving, sharing of goals, boundaries, and discussions of personal visions for community life at UD. Though these methods often help students engage in community living in a positive and healthy manner, peer conflict is almost universal in this type of living environment and staff members play a continual role as conflict coaches, advisors, and formal mediators.

Major building-wide, campus events and student organization efforts serve to heavily supplement the floor and room level community-building efforts. Hall decorating contests for Halloween, holiday celebrations, talent contests, and student art shows are a mainstay of residence hall life. UD Pep-Rallies can be found in many halls, while in others hall staff members organize outdoor games, barbeques, and activities. RAs continually promote engagement in fun and social campus events, allowing first year students to integrate with upper divi

Resource & Administrative Functions:

Appendix 2

2008-2009 Assessment Plan

Assessment will be focused on three primary areas:

1. Student satisfaction
- 2.

Student learning outcomes:

The Office of Residence Life learning outcomes are heavily informed by the FYE outcomes. It is anticipated that both the FYE Committee and the Office of Educational Assessment will be taking steps to assess the FYE Student Learning Outcomes. Residence Life will offer to play a support role in these efforts but will not independently initiate any assessment efforts in this area.

Information about student attitudes, experiences, and engagement:

The Office of Institutional Research conducts a number of surveys that are directly relevant to the work of the Office of Residence Life. Residence Life will work with Institutional Research to identify elements of the National Survey of Student Engagement, the Entering Student Needs Assessment, the Alumni Survey, and the Retention and Graduation Rates Report that are instructive to Residence Life efforts and goals.

Engagement will also be analyzed through very traditional means of tracking and counting. Student attendance patterns for activities, programs, meetings, and hall government will be tracked numerically (no individual student tracking) and reviewed throughout the year. Other tracking and counting methods will include incident reports, vandalism occurrences, and damage billing reports.

The mission of **Penn State University** Residence Life is “to provide a safe, comfortable, secure, and nurturing living-learning environment that is conducive to students' academic pursuits and personal growth while fostering a sense of community, civic responsibility, and an appreciation of diversity.” PSU lists its educational priority as “Respect and Responsibility” and further articulates that “Residents will explore, understand, and demonstrate respect for self and others and responsibility for self, community, and the environment. Penn State’s strategic plan includes, among many other things, to “Educate students on PSU’s Penn State Principles, specifically in the areas of ‘respect and responsibility’ which is Residence Life’s educational priority.”

The **University of Richmond’s** Housing Office promotes its mission as “dedicated to providing a safe, comfortable, and supportive environment that compliments student academic and social development.” On the same page, it articulates it’s diversity statement as “The University of Richmond is committed to developing a diverse workforce and student body, and to modeling an inclusive campus community which values the expression of differences in ways that promote excellence in teaching, learning, personal development, and institutional success.”

Cornell University’s Residential Initiative strives to “involve faculty in meaningful ways in the residential experience of students and promotes student engagement in the governance and direction of their living communities, giving them opportunities for leadership, service, and community building.” Program houses are themed living and learning communities that allow students to develop interests, (such as theater, art, music, the environment, or ethnic or cultural identity), outside the classroom. Faculty members regularly visit and interact with students living in these houses to provide mentorship and support.

At **Dartmouth College** the Office of Residential Life strives for high quality out-of-the-classroom interactions between faculty and students. The Faculty Engagement Initiative includes such programs as fireside chats; sophomore advantage programs; community dinners; graduate advisor faculty discussions; and faculty student initiated programs. Through involvement with faculty and other educational initiatives, the Residential Life staff at Dartmouth strives to facilitate the development of “...empowered and informed students who are also responsible...through discussion, critical analysis, and introspection, they come to understand their roles in their community and in society at large and accept active participation... by weaving moral reasoning into the social fabric of life and work, they help communities and society shape their ethical values, and then live and work by those values.”

Schools from Arkansas to Alaska could be examined and the findings would be similar. Residence life departments across the country are engaged in efforts to contribute to the educational mission of their own particular institution, but in an incredibly wide ranging manner. Diversity education, wellness education, special interest theme housing, and academic theme housing features are apparent throughout the entire country, with sustainability related missions and educational emphasis areas rapidly catching up. A residence life program absent of educational mission and goals is becoming quite rare, though admittedly the range of practices and approaches is quite wide.