Aligning the Residential College Model with Priorities of Large Institutions

Objectives for this Session
1) Align the residential college model with priorities identified by those studying higher education
2) Identify marketing messages that resonate with key stakeholders for large, public institutions
3) Discuss specific strategies for expanding the breadth of support for the residential college model

Overview

College Students’ Current Goals

- Doing well in college: 85%
- Getting a good job: 82%
- Friendships/social connections: 67%
- Making a difference by helping others: 64%

The REAL Data Revolution

How to Measure a College’s Value

Most Important Skills for Success

- Both field-specific and broad range of knowledge and skills important to long-term career success: 72%
- All college students should have educational experiences that teach them how to solve problems with people whose views are different from their own: 68%
Employers’ Expectations of Graduates Have Increased

- Our company is asking employees to take on more responsibilities and to use a broader set of skills than in the past (99%)
- Employees are expected to work harder to coordinate with other departments than in the past (99%)
- The challenges employees face within our company are more complex today than they were in the past (88%)
- To succeed in our company, employees need higher levels of learning and knowledge today than they did in the past (88%)

Source: Raising the Bar (AAC&U, 2010)

How important is it for colleges and universities to provide the type of education described below?

- This particular approach to a four-year college education provides both broad knowledge in a variety of areas of study and more in-depth knowledge in a specific major or field of interest. It also helps students develop a sense of social responsibility, as well as intellectual and practical skills that span all areas of study, such as communication, analytical, and problem-solving skills, and a demonstrated ability to apply knowledge and skills in real-world settings.


Life in College Matters for Life After College

- “Feeling supported and having deep learning experiences means everything when it comes to long-term outcomes for college graduates” (Gallup, 2014, p. 6).
- More specifically, those who felt ‘supported’ during college… are nearly three times as likely to be thriving than those who didn’t feel supported” (Gallup, 2014, p. 7)

Practice For Life: Making Decisions in College

- Making College Worth the Cost

The odds of strongly agreeing education was worth the cost are:

- Higher if... my training or job that allows me to support what I was learning in the classroom.
- Higher if... I had a member of a national fraternity or sorority.
- Higher if... I worked on a project that I was proud or honorable.
- Higher if... my advisor or instructor asked about my learning background.
- Higher if... I had a member of a national fraternity or sorority.
Living-Learning Communities

A Collegiate Way of Living

Fundamental advantage of the residential college system: “the way students in the colleges educate one another.”

- A Collegiate Way of Living, by Ryan (2001, p. 24)

Roommates: Outstanding Senior & New Freshman

Virginia Tech’s Approach

“First and foremost, residential colleges at Ambler Johnston are places where students belong, learn, and give. These multi-disciplinary, freshman through graduate level living-learning communities, thriving with meaningful and sustained relationships among faculty, staff, students, and the worlds they pursue together, promote rich intellectual, cultural, and social context where students “know and are known.” The residential colleges seek self-motivated, lifelong learners, with diverse interests, who will build a community of scholars in the spirit of Virginia Tech’s motto, Ut Prosim (That I May Serve).

“In fellowship, all things grow!”
Our Vision

The Honors Residential Commons at East Ambler Johnston strives to engage a diverse community of students pursuing development of themselves, relationships with others, and the projection of their passions into the greater community with unwavering curiosity and a commitment to lifelong service and learning.

AboliShop: A Product of the Honors Residential College

Kwamina Oleans-Pobee – Computer Science, Physics, & Philosophy
Nicholas Montgomery – Mechanical Engineering & Computer Science
Wes Williams – Applied Economic Management & Narrative Justice

#VTHRC Fellowship Rewards

Supporting Program Ideas

What Questions Remain?

You can learn more about the Honors Residential Commons at Virginia Tech at www.hrc.org.vt.edu