Background

The Office of Residential Life/Learning Communities Mission Statement:

The Office of Residential Life/Learning Communities supports the College at Brockport's mission by developing safe, inclusive and vibrant communities that value academic excellence and overall student development. Through collaboration and unique relationships with students, our staff provides an appropriate balance of challenge and support, community development and a purposeful residential curriculum with holistic student education at its core.

Living Learning Communities Vision Statement:

The vision of the Living Learning Community (LLC) Program is to provide students a form of one the High Impact Practices in higher education. Students will engage in the exploration of personal and career goals through intentional programming. Through the many academic and thematic communities, the bonds between students, faculty, staff and alumni will flourish. LLCs will provide a small community feel while preserving access to quality experiences.

Living Learning Communities (LLCs) provide unique environments where select groups of students share common residential and learning experiences. Based on disciplinary and interdisciplinary themes, LLCs create intentional links between academic, social, and residential experiences.

Each LLC has its own Learning Outcomes, Program Strategies and Assessment Plan.

First Year LLCs offered for 2014-2015:

- Honors House
- Green House
- Academic Exploration
- Recreation & Fitness
- Future Health Professionals
- Creative Artists
- Teachers of Tomorrow
- Mathematics & Physical Sciences
- Biological Sciences & Psychology
- Nursing Intent
- Leadership & Community Service
- Brockport Global Village
- Yellow Ribbon
- Perspectives on Humanity
- Law & Civility

Returning/Transfer LLCs offered for 2014-2015:

- Honors House
- Green House
- Health & Fitness
- Creative Artists
- Teachers of Tomorrow
- Math & Science
- Leadership & Community Service
- Mortimer Global Village
- Yellow Ribbon
- Business
Advantages

- Convenient, natural study groups
- Special on campus programming
- Unique field trips off campus
- Targeted academic enrichment
- Living with students who share similar interests, passions and challenges
- Networking opportunities with Faculty, Staff and Alumni
- A dedicated LLC and Residential Tutor

Partnerships

Students with similar academic and co-curricular interests live and learn together, with over 650 first year and returning/transfer students participating in 2013-2014.

Each Living Learning Community is facilitated by Resident Assistants, Resident Directors, LLC Mentors, Faculty Partners and the Coordinator of Living Learning Communities. Faculty partners interact informally on a regular basis and also create formal programs, information sessions and get to know students on many levels.

One aspect of this faculty partnership is the Faculty in Residence Program. There are currently three Faculty in Residence that live in the residence halls and work closely with LLC students. These faculty members are strategically placed in residence halls where the themes match the faculty member’s interest and/or research areas.

- Dr. Tim Stoller, Visiting Assistant Professor, Delta College
- Dr. Ronald Mower, Assistant Professor, Kinesiology, Sport Studies & P E
- Dr. Jun Woo Kim, Assistant Professor, Kinesiology, Sport Studies & P E

Faculty members also interact with LLC students on a regular basis in the residence halls and while on field trips. For example, during the fall 2013 semester there were 32 faculty and 32 staff members that were directly involved in the LLC program. Some examples of the events and activities that took place include:

- Academic Advising
- Registration & Scheduling Assistance/DARS
- Help on how to declare a major
- Resume Workshops
- T.I.E.S. (Together Including Every Student) Training Session
- Lectures
- Study Abroad Information Sessions
- Goal Setting
- Field trips to local historical houses: George Eastman House & Susan B. Anthony House
- Cultural and arts events
Alumni Relations

Another area that we are proud to partner with is The Office of Alumni Relations. In the past, students have responded well to events that involved recent, successful Alumni. These events are designed to bring our recent, successful Alumni back to campus for them to see all of the great things happening. We facilitate an atmosphere that allows Alumni to share their Golden Eagle pride, share their academic and co-curricular experiences and help relate to the current students. The current students are able to see themselves in the successes that the Alumni share and start building a network. These events have been helpful in allowing students to ask specific questions about preparing for Graduate School, entering their chosen career field and exploring a variety of careers that their major has to offer. For the spring 2014, these events were successfully executed:

- Careers in Dance
  - Thursday, February 20, 2014, Hartwell Dance Theatre, 6:00-7:30pm
- Careers in Health Care
  - Wednesday, February 26, 2014, Eagle’s Lookout, 6:30-8:00pm
- Careers in Math & Science
  - Monday, March 10, 2014, Ballroom West, 6:30-8:00pm

Tutoring

There is a dedicated tutor for the Living Learning Communities Program that holds hours right in the residence halls. Hours are also offered within the Department of Mathematics and The Student Learning Center. Many of these hours take place in the evening, allowing students to take advantage of tutoring around their schedules. The LLC & Residential Tutor Graduate Assistant tutors a minimum of 15 hours per week in residence halls and 5 hours per week in the Department of Mathematics. During the fall 2013 semester the LLC & Residential Tutor Graduate Assistant spent 104.5 hours with students. For the LLC Tutoring schedule, please visit: http://www.brockport.edu/lhc/tutor.html
Admission Process

To be admitted to an LLC, students apply through the Housing Application. Students are asked which LLCs they are interested in and then are asked to answer supplemental questions to further explore their academic commitment to the themes and what they hope to gain from the experience. Not all students that apply for LLCs are placed. Spaces are limited and occupancy is determined based on the size of the residence hall, and a conscious effort to maintain quality for each LLC. Priority is given to students who demonstrate a commitment to academic success, intellectual curiosity, civic engagement and lifelong learning.

LLC Advisory Board

The LLC Advisory Board consists of faculty and staff. Currently there are 16 professionals that serve on the Board; 12 faculty members and 4 staff members. The Advisory Board meets quarterly to discuss the current status of the LLCs. Some of the items regularly discussed include:

- Reviewing the events that LLCs have participated in since the last meeting
- Assessment results (GPAs, Conduct Statistics, feedback, EBI, Mid-Year Survey, student satisfaction, etc.)
- Curricular partnerships
- New LLCs for the next academic year
- LLC & Residential Tutor
- Articles/Research for LLCs and Residential Curriculum
- Strategies for increased faculty involvement
- Alumni Events

Progress

The LLC Advisory Board is in the process of identifying the measures of success of the LLC program. GPA, retention, persistence, satisfaction, among other measures are being discussed. Existing assessment data includes participation rates and student reported data.

The Living Learning Communities (LLC) Program started in 2008 with two LLCs; Math & Science and Brockport Global Village. Since 2008 the LLC program has continued to at a steady rate. For fall 2014, there will be a total of 15 first year LLCs and 10 returning/transfer LLCs.
Number of LLCs Offered 2008-2014

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Academic Year</th>
<th>First Year LLCs</th>
<th>Returning/Transfer LLCs</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>2008-2009</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2009-2010</td>
<td>4</td>
<td>2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2010-2011</td>
<td>6</td>
<td>4</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2011-2012</td>
<td>8</td>
<td>8</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2012-2013</td>
<td>10</td>
<td>9</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2013-2014</td>
<td>13</td>
<td>10</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2014-2015</td>
<td>15</td>
<td>10</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Number of Students in LLCs 2008-2013

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Academic Year</th>
<th>First Year Students</th>
<th>Returning/Transfer Students</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>2008-2009</td>
<td>73</td>
<td>0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2009-2010</td>
<td>87</td>
<td>28</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2010-2011</td>
<td>176</td>
<td>23</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2011-2012</td>
<td>300</td>
<td>100</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2012-2013</td>
<td>410</td>
<td>184</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2013-2014</td>
<td>500</td>
<td>150</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Faculty Involvement

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>2011-2012</th>
<th>2012-2013</th>
<th>2013-2014 (as of 4/2/14)</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>2011-2012</td>
<td>31</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2012-2013</td>
<td>37</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2013-2014</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>42</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Data related to Learning Outcomes

Educational Benchmarking Inc, 2012:

- LLC buildings, including Mortimer, met the EBI goal for Diverse Interactions at 5.51, on a scale of 1-7. Non-LLC Buildings, scored significantly lower with 5.21.
- All buildings with LLCs exceeded EBI goals for satisfaction at 5.7, while non-LLC buildings met the goal with the score of 5.46.
- Students who are a part of LLC met the goal of 5.5 for sense of community compared to those who are not and did not meet the goal for sense of community.
Mid-Year Residential Survey 2013:

- Compared to non-LLC students (45.53%), LLC students (62.68%) report a higher feeling that they are a contributing member of the residence hall and campus community.
- LLC students (56.94%) feel more connected to the community in their residence hall, compared to non-LLC students (45.52%).
- Compared to non-LLC students (54.65%), LLC students (60.10%) have more frequently identified ways to be more inclusive of people that are different than themselves.

GPAs

First Year Living Learning Communities

Student Overall GPA 2011-2013

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>2011-2012 Overall LLC GPA</th>
<th>2011-2012 Overall non-LLC GPA</th>
<th>2012-2013 Overall LLC GPA</th>
<th>2012-2013 Overall non-LLC GPA</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>2011-2012</td>
<td>3.05</td>
<td>2.98</td>
<td>3.04</td>
<td>3.01</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

First Year Living Learning Communities

LLC vs. non-LLC GPA Fall 2013

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>LLC</th>
<th>Non-LLC</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>GPA</td>
<td>3.00</td>
<td>2.77</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Quotes from LLC students about their LLC experience

- “The Math and Science LLC was my best decision when choosing The College at Brockport. From day one there was a connection and similar interest between everyone in the LLC. It creates a comfortable, relaxed atmosphere for those willing to open up to the others they are living with. The best thing about the LLC is that it networks you with similar majors from the start. The Meteorology majors get together and have hangouts and we get along great. Another aspect that really helps is having friends across the hall who you can study with. We are in a majority of classes together so it makes studying easier and in turn grades better. The LLC has given me friends that I will probably keep for the rest of my life and has made the transition from high school to college easier.” – Randy Chase, Meteorology Major, Class of 2016

- “In a nutshell, living in an LLC made my introduction to college much more enjoyable than I had anticipated and making friends was much easier. I was surrounded by other first years who were basically taking the same classes as I was, therefore I always had people to go to for homework help and making study groups was always an option. Literally after the first week of school, the group of friends I made got so close that we called ourselves a family. To this day, we all feel the same.” –Daniel Duval, Biology Major, Class of 2015

- “Being a part of an LLC was one of the best decisions I have made in regards to my college experience. Joining an LLC is so helpful in terms of meeting new people because you are part of a community that frequently works together. Because you get together for LLC meetings and events, you get to know your community much faster than if you were not a part of an LLC. I believe that every incoming Brockport Freshman should consider joining an LLC. They are full of opportunities to try new things and meet wonderful people who share your interests." –Valerie Mostyn, Psychology Major, Class of 2015

New LLCs for 2014-2015

There were five proposals for new LLCs for fall 2014. The LLC Advisory Board met on December 10, 2013 to review all of the submissions. The following LLCs were accepted by the board and will be offered in the upcoming academic year.

- **Perspectives on Humanity:** The Perspectives on Humanity LLC is for first year students who have an interest in social sciences. This community will explore careers associated with these majors as well as contribute to the development of critical thinking skills. Exploring others’ perspectives, including practicing controversy with civility, will be part of this vibrant community. Encouraged to apply: Anthropology, English, History, Modern Languages and Cultures, Philosophy, Political Science/International Studies, Sociology and Women and Gender Studies.

- **Law & Civility:** The Law & Civility LLC is for first year students who are interested in law, civility, criminal justice, careers in law enforcement and/or interested in pursuing law school. The community will focus on exploring careers in these fields, identifying internships and visiting local resources connected to these subjects. Encouraged to apply: Criminal Justice, Political Science/International Studies and Social Work.
Conclusion

Moving forward, the LLC Program will continue to grow in both quality and quantity. Students will continue to engage in the exploration of personal and career goals through intentional programming. Through the many academic and thematic communities, the bonds between students, faculty, staff and alumni will flourish. LLCs will provide a small community feel while preserving access to quality experiences.

For more specific information regarding the LLCs, please visit: www.brockport.edu/llc

If you have any questions regarding the LLC program, please feel free to contact:

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Additional Resources


