

Envisioning Our Future: Innovation Council Initiative Proposal

Innovation Council Name:

Living Learning Communities and Themed Communities Council

Council's charge:

Expand the living learning communities and themed housing offerings for our on-campus, residential students

Membership:

AJ Ernster, Skutt/Harper Centers
Allison Harlow, Student Counseling Services
Kate Macan, Department of Residence Life
Isaac Ortega, Department of Residence Life
Sue Weston, Student Health Services

Innovation Initiative Title:

CU Freshman Interest Groups – A Division of Student Life housing initiative

Identified Innovation Opportunity:

Partnering within the Division (using internal resources) to grow our residential housing communities on campus with the primary focus on freshman students.

Brief Description of Innovation Initiative:

Department of Residence Life will partner with staff in the division and academic partners to create themed housing communities for freshman (and eventually upperclassmen) students at Creighton. These communities will have a liaison from another department in the Division of Student Life and employment opportunities will be generated for upperclassmen/graduate students to serve as community mentors.

Objectives and/or Learning Outcomes:

- Create spaces where our students engage with diverse members of DSL – increase student connection to campus
- Provide new student leadership/employment possibilities
- Students are able to explore a theme/interest area in-depth – vocational discernment opportunity
- Create inclusive communities, where students have a built-in support through their peer group
- Opportunity to build stronger/deeper relationships with colleges and faculty

Who/what is better served by this Innovation Initiative:

- Incoming students – strengthened connection to campus
- Current students – taking on new leadership roles
- Division of Student Life staff – more staff gain a greater connection to the student body
- Academic departments – unique opportunity to expose students to their area of study and cultivate new major students

Who are key partners/collaborators?

- Division of Mission and Ministry (Campus Ministry, Schlegel Center for Service and Justice specifically) providing support in the development of the communities and community retreats
- All College Deans – encouraging faculty to participate
 - Faculty would provide programmatic support and academic collaboration
 - Professors would be invited to host dinners/activities in the Residence Halls to build community with the students in their respective program
 - Faculty would work to develop curriculum (or modify a current course) that is in line with the community theme and the Magis Core
- Graduate and professional school Deans – encouraging students to participate as community liaisons
- Various offices in DSL related to specific themes
- Current students – Crucial in the formation/design of new communities