

Models of International Living Learning Communities

Michael Freeman, University of Arkansas

Korey West, University of Central Arkansas

Alisha Easter, University of Arkansas

Program Outline

- History of the Living Learning Communities
- Description of Programs/Facilities
- Challenges & Successes
- Discussion
- Questions

Why International Living Learning Communities?

- Promote connection to the institution and higher level of academic engagement
- Increase intercultural development sensitivity
- Provide an inclusive community

Juan's Story



"It was my first night of college and I had just moved in. I had decided that I would just stay in my room and not leave until the morning. Or so I thought. I heard a sharp knock on my door and I reluctantly got up to open it. It was Megan Ness, an upper classman who had helped me move in earlier. I opened it to her saying in a jovial tone that I should come down stairs and join in on the fun. Pushing away my second thoughts, I went with her to the basement to see my neighbors. These were no ordinary neighbors, no. That night I played pool with Rwandans, ping pong with a Dane, chatted with girls from Korea, and ate chips with Japanese guys. The entire world in a basement. It's a small place isn't it? For the first time in my life, I wasn't a minority, but a majority. I was at home. And isn't that what it's supposed to be? An Embassy where you can wear your pajamas, where the diplomats eat, sleep, study, and have a fun time doing it. That's what Holcombe is." –Juan Holmes

Facilities & Programs

- Student Profiles
- Application Process
- Staffing Structure
- Budget
- Programming
- Facilities

Student Profiles for Holcombe

- Population: 142 Undergraduate students
 - 72 International Students
 - 70 U.S. Americans
- Programs of Study: Intensive English Language, Exchange/Visiting Students, Degree Seeking

Countries Represented

- Armenia
- Barbados
- Bolivia
- China
- Denmark
- India
- Indonesia
- Jamaica
- Japan
- Kosovo
- Macedonia
- Mongolia
- Philippines
- Rwanda
- Serbia
- South Korea
- Trinidad & Tobago
- United States
- Vietnam

Application Process

- Currently do not require application for the themed community
- Academic Learning Team must apply to participate
- All residents must agree to the following:

The mission of the Holcombe International Living Learning Community is to create an environment that fosters cultural awareness, develops a broader world outlook, and builds strong, lasting bonds among citizens of the world.

The majority of Holcombe's residents are U.S. American students , but we also have several international students from various regions including South America, Africa, Europe, the Middle East, and South East Asia.

While I am not required to participate in any activities the program offers, I understand that I am strongly encouraged to be an engaged member of the International Living Learning Community by:

- Actively participating in multicultural events, floor meetings, socials, and hall-wide programs.
- Embracing and learning from cultures and experiences different from my own.
- Sharing my culture with residents from other backgrounds.

Staff



Staffing Structure

- 1 Coordinator for Residence Education
- 1 Program Coordinator
- 1 Secretary
- 5 Resident Assistants

Staff Training

- Defining roles and setting expectations
- Knowing our population
- Understanding the unique needs each population

Budget

- Programming/Development: \$2,138.00
- Hall Senate: \$1,890.00
- International Living Learning Community: \$2,500

Programming

- Not a programming model in place
- Tied to Mission & Vision of Program
- Students complete interest inventory at the beginning of the year

Past Programs

Facilities

- Traditional residence hall
- Single/double rooms
- Community restrooms
- Common kitchens/study areas
- Game room
- Living room

Challenges

- Staff Turnover
- Filling the spaces in the academic program
- Balancing security with accessibility
- Assessment

Successes

- Relationship with campus partners
- Staffing structure
- Affects on success of students/relationships

RA Mykel



Major: International
Relations/Political Science

Year: Junior

Short term goal: Study
abroad in China during the
2010-2011 academic year

Post graduation: Work in
China/South Korea

Quote:

Discussion

- Does your campus have an international living/learning community?
- How is it structured?
- What challenges the you faced?
- What successes have you experienced?

Questions?