

2005-2006 Administrative Department Annual Report

Residential Life

**Year in Review**

**Enrollment**

**What steps did you take this year to aid ISU in overcoming enrollment challenges?**

Residential Life Staff assisted with and participated in the following enrollment initiatives:

Sycamore Preview Days

Alumni Send Offs around the State

Transfer Central days around the State

Parents of Prospective Students Program

Admitted student Preview Days

Taffy Committee

Sycamore Pathway Program (Ivy Tech/ISU program)

Multicultural Scholars Day

Special Program for 21 Century Scholars Program

Dial a Student Program

**What can your office do next year to help overcome enrollment challenges?**

Continue with above programs, continue to make residence halls the best place for students to live, and to continue to keep housing cost affordable.

**Action Steps**

**Do you have any further progress you would like to report?**

Burford Hall has been renovated and will open in the fall. Burford will be double occupancy, air-conditioned, private baths, all individual rooms, first floor activity rooms and floor lounges will be wireless. The first floor will have 2 music practice rooms, laundry facilities, and a performance area. Burford will be theme housing for the College of Business, Performing Arts, and Aerospace Technology. Theme housing expanded this year to include Special Education, Early Childhood Education and Elementary Education. Next year Athletic training will be included with the College of Nursing and we will have a second year nursing stairwell at Lincoln Quad. Social work will also have a floor in our first year area. We put our returning student housing sign-up on line this past year and it was very successful. Our Experiential Learning committee worked with RHA to do a fun raiser for Special Olympics and are also working to continue to organize help for Special Olympics this coming summer. The committee also organized a program called "Sycamores for the Community." We encourage students to donate clothing and items to the greater Terre Haute community.

**Assessment**

**What are two ways in which you evaluated the quality or effectiveness in your area last year?**

**What changes did you make based on those assessments?**

Residential life regularly assesses its programs and facilities through the Quality of Life Survey, collected every other year. According to the most recent survey, 95% of residents indicated the APA's are helpful in providing academic assistance and 94% would recommend the First Year Experience program to all new first year students. 80% said the floor atmosphere was conducive to study. 94% feel safe in their living area. 94% say there is an acceptance of people from different cultures and countries. 89% say they interact with floor members who are racially different from them. When asked what three things students liked most about living in residence halls the students responded, close to classes, internet access, and to get the total college experience.

Grade comparisons of first year students living in residence halls is higher than off campus students. Resident Assistant and Academic Peer Advocates have a cumulative GPA of 3.18 and Assistant Hall Directors have a cumulative GPA of 3.66. It is important to have positive upper class role models for students to emulate.

The National Survey on Student Engagement (NSSE), Residential Life Quality of Life Survey and programming reports all show evidence of student learning and development in the residence halls.

Results from the 2005 NSSE shows that there is a significant difference between residence hall students and off campus students in the following areas:

Residential students receive more assistance in coping with non-academic responsibilities.

Residential students receive more support to help students survive socially.

Residential students attend more campus events and activities (speakers, performances)

Residential students rate their relationships with other people at the institution as being more supportive, with a higher sense of belonging.

Residential students have worked more with faculty members on activities other than course work.

Residential students have had more involvement in teaching and tutoring other students.

Residential students have had more serious conversations with students of different races.

Residential students have had more serious conversations with students who have different personal values.

These results emphasize the importance of residence hall living on students' overall educational experience. Residential Life continues to be committed to providing a comprehensive residential program that supports the University mission.

#### Evaluation of CAS Standards

In fall 2005, Residential Life staff engaged in a comprehensive assessment of the department based

on the CAS Standards. As a result next year's goals will reflect area for improvement. Assessment will continue as it will help us improve.

### Alignment with University Goals

The evidence provided in this unit review report and its appendixes supports that Residential Life's mission is in alignment with University goals and that we assist in the area of retention and recruitment of students. We provide students with an opportunity to learn more about tolerance and diversity. We provide experiential learning opportunities for students.

### Programming Statistics Spring Semester 2006

#### Number of Events by Category:

Category	2005	2006
A/C/&I - Academic/Career/ & Intellectual Competencies	105	83
PI & IR - Personal Identity & Interpersonal Relationships	116	102
PH & W - Personal Health and Wellness	98	67
Cultural - Educates others about cultural Experiences	79	68

#### Attendance by Category\*:

Category	2005	2006
A/C/&I - Academic/Career/ & Intellectual Competencies	1210	1028
PI & IR - Personal Identity & Interpersonal Relationships	4090	2277
PH & W - Personal Health and Wellness	793	952
Cultural - Educates others about cultural experiences	1448	1493

\* denotes that attendance for some events were listed as N/A for passive events such as bulletin boards. These numbers reflect the attendance for the students counted by staff in their own program reporting. It is also important to realize that there were ten less R.A.s, due to the closing of Burford Hall and the decreased number of students living in our halls as well. Even though, there was increased attendance in cultural and Personal Health and Wellness programs.

### Residential Life Programming Information

Semester	Year	Events	Attendance Reported
Fall	2004	291	4503

Spring 2005	253	3542
04 - '05 Totals	544	8045
Fall 2005	188	3789
Spring 2006	254	4252
05 - '06 Totals	442	8041
2 year Totals	986	16,086

### **Budget**

**As you know, ISU is facing significant budget challenges. Finding ways to overcome these while increasing efficiency requires innovation. How are you overcoming your budget challenges this year?**

Resources available for reinvestment relate to capital projects, staff positions, and building closings. Residential Life will cut cost by \$100,000 by closing Sandison Hall. Residential Life remains committed to self-sufficiency as an auxiliary operation and will use its resources to operate, maintain, and improve its residential facilities. Selling additional single rooms will increase room and board revenue. Managing occupancy is important to balancing our budget and to responding to fluctuations in enrollment.

### **Strategic Initiatives**

#### **Development Activities**

**What role might your unit play during the silent phase of the comprehensive fundraising campaign?**

Our area needs more information about this campaign. I am sure we will be supportive; however, we need more information.

### **Future Goals**

#### **Feedback**

**This box is to allow you to share any ideas you have on enhancing enrollment, dealing with budget, challenges facing the administration, etc.**

Recruit students from outside the 60 miles radius because this would help make ISU more residential. Keep costs down because our students come from rural areas and are still first generation students.

#### **Future Goals**

**Have you considered any action steps your department could make to enhance Indiana State**

**University's reputation as a University of choice? If so, please indicate what you are planning to do and tell us which area of planning your steps fall under.**

Continue the renovations of our residence hall facilities. As you know, Ball State and Purdue are starting/continuing to build and renovate their halls. In addition, Butler is putting in new apartments as an option for on campus living. Continued renovations are part of our plan, but we have to make sure the upper level administration recognizes the benefits....and the competitive edge new/newly renovated halls provides ISU regarding recruitment and retention. (EM)

We need to explore the possibilities of expanding our first year theme housing to the sophomore year. We need to introduce the idea of expanding our theme programs to the sophomore year. (EP, CE, EM)

In addition, we need to explore ideas regarding our first year theme housing program. Now that Burford Hall is going to be the show-place of theme housing, we need to make sure your academic colleagues are aware of the possibilities. Steps have been taken to re-establish relations with some of the academic areas, but we could really highlight the collaboration of student affairs and academic affairs in our theme housing buildings. (EM, IM, EL)

An area that we are expanded and developing is the Lincoln Leadership Community. This program targets an incoming population that has an interest in leadership skills and provides interested students with a niche that other schools might not provide. It really could be a "selling" point for ISU. (EM, EL, EP, CE)

We are exploring an e-payment system for housing payments on line. (TCH)  
We will be exploring a roommate matching capability for new students. (TCH)

Burford will be wireless and we need to continue to update halls as we continue to renovate facilities.