Community Development and Programming Model

The Residence Life Community Development model outlines specific means for developing community within each of the residential areas. The model encompasses large-scale efforts, like highly planned educational programs as well as smaller scale efforts such as creating meaningful interactions with individual residents.

Success within this model requires the RA to truly get to know each resident in an effort to meet their needs at multiple levels. It is extremely important that RAs recognize this model is a guide to best serve the residential community's needs and interests, not the needs and interests of staff members facilitating programs. An RA can use tools such as a hall survey to assess the needs of the residents in their area. Most often, however, it is from taking the time and paying attention to those small meaningful conversations with residents that RAs are best able to gauge what these needs truly are on their hall.

The model provides minimum expectations for RA programming based on the year of the residents in their area: 1st year residents, returning residents on Main Campus, and returning residents on East Campus. RA’s are asked to begin planning and executing programs for residents at the start of the semester. Each RA must work with his/her supervisor to create a plan of action and follow through on programming efforts.

RAs are expected to spread out the opportunities they provide their residents across the entirety of the semester to ensure that they are consistently meeting resident’s needs. In addition, RAs are expected to provide for the needs of ALL of their residents, not just those individuals who are actively seeking it – it is important to remember that each resident has needs that we should work to meet, even if it means working a little harder to make these connections.
Program Definitions

Educational Program
A program is a planned event designed to provide knowledge, experience and opportunities to meet the needs of the residents. Quite literally, a program is an event or activity that “educates outside the classroom.”

Programs are to be educational in nature and must encompass at least one aspect of the Educational Programming Guide. RAs are to complete an educational handout or other tangible material to accompany their program as a means of providing residents with tangible resources and material on the topic covered. RAs are encouraged to utilize campus and community resources in gathering information for these handouts and in program preparation.

Student Engagement Opportunity (SEO)
Student Engagement Opportunities are planned, intentional, engaging activities focused on enhancing community interaction. SEOs are a time to attend to the social development of residents. There is intentionality and some structure that must be put into planning a SEO for your residents in order to ensure that they are being actively engaged and provided with an opportunity to grow and develop socially.

Apartment Meetings (AM)
Apartment Meetings are specific to the East Campus Area and are planned meetings with individual apartment units between the RA and the residents to establish roles and expectations, while beginning to create rapport and community.

Community Development Activity (CDA)
Community Development Activities are informal and often spontaneous social events to encourage community development. CDAs encompass all “the little things” that RAs do just in being there for their residents. CDAs can be planned or spontaneous, active or passive.

Passive Programs
A passive program is planned and designed to provide knowledge and information that meet the needs of residents. Similarly to an “educational program” it should “educate outside the classroom.”

Passive programs must encompass at least one aspect of the Educational Programming Guide. RAs are to complete an educational handout to accompany their program as a means of providing residents with tangible resources and material on the topic covered. RAs are encouraged to utilize campus and community resources in gathering information for these handouts and in program preparation.

Regularly Scheduled Programs

- **Bulletin boards** are a tool used to engage and educate residents in a passive manner. Educational bulletin boards must include at least one aspect of the Educational Programming Guide.

- **Newsletters** serve as highly effective tools to disseminate information and create a sense of community activity and opportunities for involvement. Newsletters must include at least one aspect of the Educational Programming Guide. This may be done through a feature article, a crossword/word search/game on the topic, etc. All newsletters, unless otherwise noted, must be at least 2 pages (1 front and back).
- **Door tags** are a fun way to add character and life to the hall. By using a creative theme, RAs can also facilitate roommates and hall-mates getting to know one another by name throughout the semester. Door tags do not need to incorporate an aspect of the Educational Programming Guide.

**Monthly Theme Areas**
Throughout the year, themes are provided to assist with program planning and to help create some similarities amongst residence halls. RAs should refer to the theme guide while developing overall plans for the semester/year.

**Collaboration**
When permitted, collaboration may occur between RAs within an area/building or between an RA and a resource outside of Residence Life (i.e. another office, faculty, student organizations, etc.). The purpose of collaboration is to meet the needs of all residents involved, not merely to pair up with a friend or to gain monetary funding for a program. It is important that each RA have shared responsibility for organizing, promoting, and executing the event. Restrictions do apply and all collaborations must be approved in advance through the supervisor.

**Hosting and Facilitating Events**
As with deciphering between wants and needs, it can sometimes be easy to intertwine the ideas of hosting and facilitating events even though they are very different. Hosting an event implies that at some point the host is intermingling during the event, leaving the specific details to another individual. Facilitating an event requires that the facilitator be involved in the program from start to finish.

With Programs and SEOs specifically, RAs are expected to act as active facilitators during the event. This is true even when an outside presenter joins the event – the RA must actively facilitate the flow of the event. This does not mean that a RA cannot participate in activities or enjoy the program; it means he/she is responsible for the entirety of the event.

As CDAs do not require advanced planning or defined structure, the RA can act more in the role of a host or merely as a part of the group.
Programming Model: First Year Areas

2 Educational Programs
Planned events designed to provide knowledge, experience, and opportunities to meet the needs of the residents.
- 2 total required per semester
- 1 may be in collaboration with one other RA with approval from supervisor

2 Student Engagement Opportunities (SEOs)
Planned, intentional, engaging activities focused on enhancing community interaction.
- 2 total required per semester
- 1 may be in collaboration with one other RA with approval from supervisor
- 1 must be completed prior to September 21, 2012
- May not be completed during first floor meeting

10 Community Development Activities (CDAs)
Informal and often spontaneous social events to encourage community development.
- 10 required per semester
- Collaboration prohibited
- A minimum of 3 residents must attend
- May not repeat the same activity with the same residents/room
- May not include more than 3 “meals” without supervisor approval
- Scheduled door tags and bulletin boards DO NOT count as a CDA. Additional passive program information may be considered as a CDA with approval from supervisor.

Building Wide Community Development - Academic Initiatives
Collaboration between all RAs within an area utilizing University Fellows for Student Success to help promote first year student academic programming within the hall.
- 1 initiative required per month (created by University Fellows)
- RA must promote to residents and must attend each program
- A minimum of 5 residents must attend

Regularly Scheduled Programs
- **Door Tags** must be created and placed on each resident door twice per year
  - prior to August arrival and prior to the return from fall break
  - prior to January arrival and prior to the return from spring break
- **Bulletin boards** are required at the start of each semester and once each month according to dates on the Residence Life calendar
- **Newsletters** are required once over the summer as a “letter to residents” and at the start of each semester

Once minimum program requirements are fulfilled each semester, additional programs may be facilitated or planned as desired.
Programming Model: Main Campus Non-First Year Areas

3 Educational Programs
Planned events designed to provide knowledge, experience, and opportunities to meet the needs of the residents.

- 3 required per semester
- 1 may be in collaboration with one other RA with approval from supervisor
- 1 must be in collaboration with any campus resource/office outside Residence Life with approval from supervisor

2 Student Engagement Opportunities (SEOs)
Planned, intentional, engaging activities focused on enhancing community interaction.

- 2 required per semester
- 1 may be in collaboration with one other RA with approval from supervisor
- 1 must be completed prior to September 21, 2012
- May not be completed during first floor meeting

7 Community Development Activities (CDAs)
Informal and often spontaneous social events to encourage community development.

- 7 required per semester
- Collaboration prohibited
- A minimum of 3 residents must attend
- May not repeat the same activity with the same residents/ room
- May not include more than 3 “meals” without supervisor approval
- Scheduled door tags and bulletin boards DO NOT count as a CDA. Additional passive program information may be considered as a CDA with approval from supervisor.

1 Building Wide Community Development
Collaboration between all RAs within an area with shared responsibility of organizing, promoting, and executing an entire building wide event.

- 1 required per semester
- Must be an “Educational Program” or “Student Engagement Opportunity”
- May be in collaboration with any campus resource/office outside Residence Life

Regularly Scheduled Programs
- **Door Tags** must be created and placed on each resident door twice per year
  - prior to August arrival and prior to the return from fall break
  - prior to January arrival and prior to the return from spring break
- **Bulletin boards** are required at the start of each semester and once each month according to dates on the Residence Life calendar
- **Newsletters** are required once over the summer as a “letter to residents” and at the start of each semester

Once minimum program requirements are fulfilled each semester, additional programs may be facilitated or planned as desired.
Programming Model: East Campus

**1 Apartment Meetings (AM)**
Planned meetings with individual apartment units between the RA and the residents.
- 1 per apartment required per semester
- Must be completed with each apartment in the area prior to September 21, 2012

**2 Student Engagement Opportunities (SEOs)**
Planned, intentional, engaging activities focused on enhancing community interaction.
- 2 required per semester
- 1 may be in collaboration with one other RA with approval from supervisor

**10 Community Development Activities (CDAs)**
Informal and often spontaneous social events to encourage community development.
- 10 required per semester
- Collaboration prohibited
- A minimum of 3 residents must attend
- May not repeat the same activity with the same residents/room
- May not include more than 3 “meals” without supervisor approval
- Scheduled door tags and bulletin boards DO NOT count as a CDA. Additional passive program information may be considered as a CDA with approval from supervisor.

**1 Area Wide Community Development**
Collaboration between all RAs on East Campus and members of the Area Council with shared responsibility of organizing, promoting, and executing an entire area wide event.
- 1 required per semester
- Must be an “Educational Program” or “Student Engagement Opportunity”
- May be in collaboration with any campus resource/office outside Residence Life

**2 Passive Programs**
- 2 required per semester
- Collaboration prohibited

**Regularly Scheduled Programs**
- **Door Tags** must be created and placed on each resident door twice per year
  - prior to August arrival and prior to the return from fall break
  - prior to January arrival and prior to the return from spring break
- **Bulletin boards** are required at the start of each semester and once each month according to dates on the Residence Life calendar
- **Newsletters** are required once over the summer as a “letter to residents” and at the start of each semester

Once minimum program requirements are fulfilled each semester, additional programs may be facilitated or planned as desired.
Educational Programming Guide

Student Success
To expand factual knowledge and key concepts
- Internship Prep
- Resume Building
- Mock Interviews
- Job Searching
- Networking
- Study Skills
- Choosing a major
- Classroom subjects: history, science, etc.
- Politics
- Personality Tests
- Goal Setting
- Ethics/Morals
- Value Identifiers
- Academic Prep
- Decision-making
- Time management
- Stress management
- Anger management
- Conflict management

Engagement
To expand relationship knowledge and communication skills
- Roommate relationships
- Friendships/Romance
- Family
- Homesickness
- Mediations
- Internet Communication
- Gender Roles
- Communication Styles
- Leadership Roles & Theories
- Leadership in service
- Leadership in organizations
- Leadership in the classroom

Awareness
To expand understanding of oneself and the environment
- Cross-cultural awareness
- Diversity
- Socio-economic status
- Race Relations
- Sexuality
- Spirituality
- Counseling
- Crisis Reflections
- Philanthropies
- Community Service
- Alcohol/Drug Awareness
- Laundry*
- Car Maintenance*
- Finances/Budget
- Physical Health
- Mental Health
- Self-Defense
- Sexual Health
- Red Zone
- CNU PD/Crime
- Bike Awareness*
- Internet Safety
- Environment

*These topics will only be used for Bulletin Boards, Newsletters, or CDAs.
Monthly Themes

September/October
- Academic (Leadership, Majors, Coursework, Load, Balance)
- Transition (Homesickness, Workforce, Real Life Application)
- Awareness (Red Zone, Alcohol, Community Outreach & Development, Cultural Awareness & Traditions)

November/December
- Study Skills (Test Prep, Scan Trons, Balance & Management)
- Stress Management (Relaxation, Tips & Tricks)
- Study Abroad (Options, Programs, Cultural Education)

January/February
- Career Exploration (Internships, Declaration of Major, Career Center Resources)
- Health and Wellness (Cold and Flu Season, Physical and Emotional Well Being)

March/April
- Real World Application (Apartment Hunting, Applying for Jobs, Finances, Internship Preparation, Professional Etiquette)
- Service/Community Outreach (Sponsorships and Support of Local Organizations, Day of Service, In Hall Drives)
- Study Tips (Gearing up for Finals, Finishing the Semester Successfully)

First Year Area Themes
- Themes and Educational Topics will be created and established by Student Success University Fellows as part of the Learning Community Academic Initiatives. These themes and programs, in collaboration with first year area RAs, will be presented and decided upon prior to the start of the school year by the Office for Student Success.