



The Superior Innovation Initiative: Request for Proposals Big Pitch Application Form – August 28, 2015

Instructions

1. Complete this application for the Superior Innovation Initiative.
2. Please review your submission with your department chair or supervisor and obtain signature indicating review.
3. Send electronically your submission to Provost Faith Hensrud (provost@uwsuper.edu) by October 1, 2015.

Your proposal must include: project title and project plan, budget narrative, project timeline, and proposed budget form.

The Superior Innovation Initiative Project Proposal

Project Title:	Residential Living Communities
Project Leader:	Emily Borra
Project Leader Email:	eborra@uwsuper.edu
Project Leader Phone:	715-394-8575
Unit/Program/Department:	Residence Life/Campus Life
Other Project Team Members: Include email, phone	

Project Plan:

In order to evaluate proposals in a fair and equitable manner, please write your plan according to the following guidelines:

Residence Life is proposing the addition of Residence Living Communities (RLCs). Students living in an RLC enjoy the benefits of on-campus housing, with the unique addition of being connected to and living amongst a cohort that shares similar interests and goals. Residence Life is proposing four RLCs to be housed in Curran-McNeill-Ostrander – Outdoor Living Community, ‘Jacket Intramural Living Community, Creative Arts Living Community, and Academic-Focused Living Community.

Research demonstrating the value of living in a residence hall and the increased opportunity for collegiate success goes back decades; findings include that students:

- Have higher retention, persistence, and graduation rates¹
- Graduate within four years or less²
- Achieve higher grade point averages³
- Are more likely to be integrated into the culture of the institution⁴
- Report a higher degree of satisfaction with the college experience⁵

¹ American Council on Education; Astin, 1973, 1985; Banning & Kuk, 2011; Blimling, 1989, 1993, 1997; Chickering, 1974; Pascarella, 1984; Pascarella & Terenzini, 2005; Pike, 1999; Pike, Schroeder, & Berry, 1997; Zhao & Kuh, 2004

² Letkiewicz, Lim, Heckman, Bartholomae, Fox, & Montalto, 2014

³ American Council on Education

⁴ Bozick, 2007; Chickering, 1974; Pascarella, Terenzini, & Blimling, 1994; Pascarella, 1984

⁵ American Council on Education



Due to the benefits and nature of residential living, universities are seeking more innovative ways to increase a student's success through on-campus housing. Studies show that students who live in residences halls are more likely to participate in communities, such as the proposed RLCs; therefore, enriching the educational experience beyond the classroom⁶.

RLCs further extend the benefits of residential living in several ways:

- Statistically significant effect on student persistence from first to second year⁷; a 5%-15% increase in persistence to second year⁸
- Increased involvement in academic-related activities⁹ and higher level of academic success in courses, abilities, test-taking, and working as part of a team¹⁰
- Greater sense of belonging to the institution¹¹
- Increased satisfaction from on-campus housing¹² with a more supportive environment, both academically and socially¹³
- Stronger interpersonal relationships with peers¹⁴
- Greater ease of transition to college life¹⁵
- Decreased rates of alcohol usage¹⁶

RLCs will focus on a residential group of students and provide intentional programming revolving around their shared interests and goals. While the RLCs will vary in goals and size, they all:

- Provide more personal, supportive, community-focused experiences in Curran-McNeill-Ostrander Residence Halls while encouraging student engagement
- Facilitate personal relationships between students, faculty, and staff
- Build nurturing, welcoming atmospheres to increase learning and retention
- Encourage student participation and provide extracurricular evening activities centered on topics of specific interest
- Offer in-residence tutoring

While this program will be unique to our region, institutions across the country are incorporating interest-focused communities into their Residence Life program; therefore, this initiative will keep us competitive with other universities, such as UW-River Falls, UW-Eau Claire, UW-La Crosse, UW-Whitewater, UW-Stevens Point, and UW-Milwaukee.

Work has already begun on the proposed RLCs for implementation in the Fall of 2016. Meanwhile, full student retention numbers will be fully realized in 2020 when the incoming class of 2016 is expected to graduate.

⁶ American Council on Education

⁷ Stassen, 2003; Tinto, 1997

⁸ Tinto, 2012

⁹ Pike et. al, 1997

¹⁰ American Council on Education

¹¹ American Council on Education

¹² Blimling, 2015

¹³ American Council on Education

¹⁴ Blimling, 2015

¹⁵ American Council on Education

¹⁶ American Council on Education



Residence Life aims to increase retention from first to second year of students participating in RLCS between 5. This program has a maximum capacity of approximately 200 students – 5% means at least an additional 10 students persisting to Fall 2017. Those 10 students living on-campus during their second year totals an additional \$39,000 from room revenue and \$24,900 from board revenue.

Sources

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- Tinto, V. (1993) *Living College: Rethinking the Causes and Cures of Student Attrition*. Chicago: University of Chicago Press.
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Budget Narrative (limit to 250 words).

- **Programming** – Total: \$12,465
 - Outdoor Living Community** – attend up to 3 specialized Outdoor Adventure trips. Cost and trips determined with Campus Recreation collaboration. \$90/student
 - Jacket Intramural Living Community** – unlimited access to Intramural Sport Teams. \$50/student
 - Creative Arts Living Community** – explore the creative arts facets of the campus and local community, including on-campus and trips to local events/venues. \$40/student
 - Academic-Focused Living Community** – make a commitment to academics and enroll in at least one general education course each semester. Access to in-hall tutors. Additional opportunities to attend faculty lectures and workshops on undergraduate research. Math tutors \$8.20/hr. General tutors \$7.60/hr. Two hours/day. \$25/student
 - Additional Programming Needs** – provide all residents with socials, workshops, and programs, such as “Pizza with a Professor” and academic open houses. \$1,000/semester
- **Personnel** – Total: \$26,320
 - Student Staff: Residential Peer Mentor** – will spend 100% of time providing direct service to the students on their floor. They will work with floor’s university fellow to implement themed programming. Free room, Black and Gold meal plan, and a \$600 stipend.
 - Professional Staff** – will spend at least 25% of their time coordinating and implementing all programming initiatives of Residence Life, including Residential Living Communities; hiring, supervising, and training staff; and serving as the direct correspondents for all Residential Life programs.
- **Staff Development** – Total: \$1,138
 - Attend the Association of College and University Housing Officers International Living-Learning Programs Conference to continue education in the area of program implementation and development. \$700 registration. 3 nights at \$82. 4 days of car rental at \$48.



Project Timeline:

(Prepare a timeline for project not to exceed 2015-2017 time frame)

June 2015: Design Residential Living Communities to be implemented Fall 2016 to the incoming first-year class

June 2015-October 2015: Meet with campus partners regarding program goals and collaboration; determine programming costs with campus partners

August 2015: Meet with Admissions regarding marketing and recruitment of incoming students to RLCs and UW-Superior

October 2015: Submit Superior Innovation Initiative Grant

October 2015-August 2016: Market RLC option to incoming students

October 2015-January 2016: Restructure housing contract and assignment software to include RLC housing option

October 2015-March 2016: Design and finalize staffing needs and requirements for RLCs

January 2016-April 2016: Select and hire student staff

May 2016-August 2016: Prepare residence halls for implementation of RLCs

May 2016-August 2016: Meet with campus partners regarding program goals and collaboration for RLCs

August 2016: Implement of RLCs in CMO

August 2016-May 2017: Work with student staff, University Fellows, and other campus partners to bring resources and services into RLC programming; follow-up with residents on their experience; create additional programming opportunities and programs for all RLC participants; potentially expand RLCs to upperclass students



Proposed Budget:

Item Description <i>(person or item)</i>		“Hours and Rate” (if labor) or “Purchase Cost”(if non-labor)	Line Total
1	Programming: Outdoor Living Community	\$90*48 students	\$4,320
2	Programming: ‘Jacket Intramural Living Community	\$50*54 students	\$2,700
3	Programming: Creative Arts Living Community	\$40*53 students	\$2,120
4	Programming: Academic-Focused Living Community	\$25*53 students	\$1,325
5	Programming: Additional Needs	\$1,000/semester	\$2,000
6	Personnel: Residential Peer Mentor (Outdoor Living Community)	\$3,490 room + \$2,490 board + \$600 stipend	\$6,580
7	Personnel: Residential Peer Mentor (‘Jacket Intramural Living Community)	\$3,490 room + \$2,490 board + \$600 stipend	\$6,580
8	Personnel: Residential Peer Mentor (Creative Arts Living Community)	\$3,490 room + \$2,490 board + \$600 stipend	\$6,580
9	Personnel: Residential Peer Mentor (Academic-Focused Living Community)	\$3,490 room + \$2,490 board + \$600 stipend	\$6,580
10	Staff Development	\$700 registration + \$82/hotel night*3 + \$48/day car*4	\$1,138
		Total:	\$39,923
		Total Request:	\$13,603
1	Matching Funds (Source: Residence Life)	Personnel expenses \$6580*4	\$26,320
		Total Matching:	\$26,320



Check which of the following might apply (check all that apply):

_____ This project requires System review and approval.

_____ This project requires campus governance review and approval.

X This project requires departmental review and approval.

Emily Borra

Print Name

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to be "E. Borra". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a long horizontal stroke extending to the right.

Signature

Submit project applications by 4:30 p.m. on October 1, 2015 to provost@uwsuper.edu