No Student is an Island in a Career Based Living Learning Community

School of the Arts
College of Arts & Sciences
Northern Kentucky University

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About Us

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Living Learning Community

SOTA Living Learning Community (LLC) in Callahan Hall
Allows students to network with each other and faculty & staff, engage in workshops, and participate in local events!
To join the community, simply choose the SOTA LLC on your Housing Application!

Open to majors and minors in:
Music
Theatre & Dance
Visual Arts

“Living with other artists is so comfortable and fosters creativity and collaboration with other disciplines.”
– Aubrey Wirth,
B.M. Music Performance – Choral/Vocal
Data from: 2018-2022

- No course requirements
- Inclusive focus
- Research-based (references available on conference website)
- Assessment
- Advising as teaching and holistic student-centered approach
ABOUT OUR STUDENTS

• Majors and Minors
  • Music  Theatre  Dance  Design  Visual Arts
• Others who support the arts and enjoy working with creative people (2019-current)
  • International Studies  Integrative Studies  Education  Undeclared
  • Neuroscience  Human Resources  Electronic Media and Broadcasting
  • Nursing
• All genders (flex housing option)
THE CONCEPT PHASE THROUGH LAUNCH

• Lunch with colleague to learn about College of Business LLC
• Discussion with other LLC founders, Honors College
• Getting buy-in from stakeholders
• Logistical planning (student centered choices)
• Advertising
• Launching
STUDENT CENTERED

• Commuter campus where students often feel isolated
  ▪ 75% commuters
  ▪ 25% campus residents
• SOTA students largest group to live on campus
• Communication
• Surveys
• Programming
ASSESSMENT: BY THE NUMBERS

• High academic-year retention rate
  • Sign a year-long contract with Housing
  • Monetary and socio-emotional investment
  • NKU Fall 2018 to Fall 2019 B-Cohort retention rate for students who live in on-campus housing is 76% (Full-time, bachelor’s degree seeking)
• 2018-2019 Cohort (First SOTA LLC Cohort) (30)
  • 90% retention from Fall 2018-Spring 2019 (1 student transferred to a top University for his major)
  • Average GPA of 3.3
  • By Spring Semester 2020, retention rate at 90% (2.5.2020)
    • With 3.3 average GPA
  • Start of Fall 2021 (start of 4th year tracking)
    • 70% retention/graduation rate
    • Average GPA of 3.25
ASSESSMENT:

- 2019-2020 Cohort (35 students)
  - 94.12% retention rate from Fall 2019-Spring 2020
  - Average GPA of 2.92
  - During Spring 2021, retention was at 78.78%
    - Includes retained and graduated students
    - Average GPA of 2.951
    - Higher than average NKU Housing retention rate for 1 year
  - Fall 2021
    - 75.76% retention
    - Average GPA of 2.87
    - Drop during the pandemic was expected
ASSESSMENT:

- 2020-2021 Cohort (31 students)
  - 93.5% retention rate from Fall 2020 to Spring 2021 (living at home again and those living on campus)
  - 100% retention rate for students actually living on campus in the SOTA LLC
  - Average GPA of 3.29 in Spring 2021
  - At the start of Fall 2021:
    - 83.87% retention rate (including students who had to live off campus)
    - 81.81% retention rate for students who stayed on campus (physically separate SOTA LLC)
    - Average GPA of 3.2
2021-2022 COHORT

• Increased student population (58)
  • Word is out
  • Almost no advertising during the pandemic
• Pandemic concerns rising with campus administration, staff, and faculty
• Pandemic concerns seem to be lessening among students
• SOTA LLC students separated
  • 6 different residence halls
  • Physical community low
WELCOME DINNER EVENT

- Pre-pandemic
- Student led
- Communication with students
- Social
- Award-winning
- Personalized Programming
- Resident Advisors are now all SOTA students
SURVEYS:

- Entrance Survey
- Goals
- Interests
- Personal
- Time

- Preferred name
- Preferred pronoun
- Major
- Mobile contact
- Transportation details
- Favorite foods
- How do you relax or have fun?
- “What is the #1 thing you want to try to do during this year while at NKU?”
- “What helps you feel better when you are stressed or feeling off?”
SURVEYS:

- Exit Survey
  - What worked
  - Assessment
  - Student satisfaction
  - Future planning

- Favorite events
- 77% of respondents believed the SOTA LLC made the academic year easier
- 44% used the SOTA computer lab in the residence hall
- 100% felt the Resident Advisors were accessible and welcoming
- 89% felt the Academic Advisors were accessible and welcoming
- Ideas for next year
OTHER PROGRAMMING

• Solarium remodel

• Solarium on each floor for group study and socialization space
• Mirrors
• Music stands
• Tables
• Extra chairs
• Extra space
• Scheduled study tables
• Impromptu critiques and practices
• Physical proximity (pre-pandemic) to other creatives and students who enjoy working with creatives
• Challenges of pandemic isolation
PROGRAMMING

• Computer lab revamp

• Updated computers
• MAC and PC operating systems
• Higher quality printer
• Extra router
• In the building
• Many other computer labs in the Fine Arts Center (10 minute walk)
• After hours passes for Fine Arts Center for constant access to facilities and other computer labs
• Swipe access to Fine Arts and Ceramic/Sculpture Buildings
PROGRAMMING • Quick response to student ideas

• Free tickets to Theatre productions on campus
• *Rocky Horror Picture Show*
• *Blink*
• Wellness workshop
• Advising Friday in residence hall
  • Pizza
  • Coffee
  • Cookies
• SOTA LLC Newsletter
• GroupMe
• Microsoft Teams group
PROGRAMMING

- Graduation planning
- Information Literacy for Creatives
  - Module on copyright and intellectual property for those who create new content
- Mural in SOTA LLC wing
NEXT STEPS • 2022-2023

• Move the SOTA LLC to newest residence hall on campus
• Expand the number of students involved
• Mentor program
• Increase in-person events and local field trips
• Assessment using retention and average GPA
• Assessment of student satisfaction through digital surveys
QUESTIONS?

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