

Planning for Service Learning

Group/Class: Higher Education, Student Ambassador

Topic: Building Community Among Students

Prepare

Essential Purpose or Question for Service:

How can Student Ambassadors give back to their community by helping first-year students successfully transition into college?

Service Need to Community or Others:

Partner to build and strengthen relationships among new and returning students.

Service Idea: Increase retention of first-year students Plan a social for first-year students and upperclassmen to welcome new students.
Investigation of the Need: Discuss current or future events planned for new and returning students with the Student-Life Office to determine a need for social. Investigate potential dates, times, and locations for the social. Brainstorm ways to promote and attract new and returning students to the social.
Preparation and Planning: Determine the need and options based off other institutions' successes in strengthening community. Approach student organizations to gauge interest in supporting efforts. Promote event through social media, school newspaper, campus-wide emails, student organizations, and student leadership. Schedule event details and specific needs.
Action: Hold social. Document event through pictures. Collect students' name and email address so information can be sent on activities, clubs, and resources.
Reflection: Debrief meeting held to discuss successes of event and areas of improvement.
Demonstration to Others: Share social successes and photos with administration and in the following school newspaper publication.

Organize

Service Learning Project Parameters:

Social will need to be held on campus to eliminate transportation barriers and rental costs. Entertainment must be provided by college band/choir. Refreshments and/or food needs to be supplied by student life or donated.

Duration/Timeframe of Service Learning Project:

This will be a semester long project planned in the spring semester prior to the next fall start. The first quarter of the semester will be spent holding meetings and gathering information. The second and third quarters of the semester will be spent finalizing event details and maximizing the impact. The fourth quarter will be spent promoting the event.

Youth Voice and Choice:

Students are in sole management of the event planning and provide adequate feedback to leader who regulates the project.

Facilitator Reflections

Skills Developed

Experiencing and Exploring Diversity:

Students are exposed to a variety of needs incoming first-year's have. These needs vary on diverse family backgrounds and relationships, socio-economic statues, emotional needs, etc.

Involvement with Project Management:

Students do 100% of the project work, with guided support from leader.

Learning About Careers:

Students learned about careers in student-life and higher education leadership roles.

Strengthening Social, Emotional, and Character Traits:

Students strengthened their patience and perseverance. Patience is essential in long-term, multi-dimensional projects.

Developing Leadership:

Students worked diligently on organization and communication skills, which are definite traits of leaders. They coordinated all of the meetings with college administration and student organizations. Details were executed for an impactful and quality event.

Additional Attributes

Public Awareness or Presentation:

Sharing of successes with administration to encourage future community building opportunities will occur. An article in the next issue of the school newspaper will be published.

Other:

Consider how this event can be sustained from year to year as a collective college support and community social.