A Westminster Experience: Redefining Residence Life via the Implementation of Living Learning Communities

Abstract

2014 Capstone Project

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Westminster College’s Strategic Plan promotes distinctive programs and emphasis on theory and practice when considering the implementation of new programs. Furthermore, an approach to active, experiential, collaborative, and cross-disciplinary learning helps make Westminster College a “unique environment for learning”. With this said, the Office of Residence Life now seeks to increase the potential for learning outside the classroom and improve experiential education initiatives via the implementation of several, structured “Living Learning Communities”, or LLCs.

A brief description of the history of housing on college campuses, coupled with research on the benefits of living learning communities helps support this program proposal. Descriptions of consideration for successful implementation are listed, including marketing suggestions, the necessity for programming, assessment requirements, and collaboration strategies.

*Key words: Living learning communities, Residence Halls, collaboration*