DIVERSE LIVING AND LEARNING FOR OUR STUDENT COMMUNITIES
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At Oklahoma State University, freshman retention rates have varied over the past 10 years, from a low of 77.1% to a high of 81.3%. The last two years have presented the highest percentage of freshman who have returned for the following year. There are many different variables that influence retention rates. The Department of Housing & Residential Life has the unique opportunity to contribute to retention through our Living Learning Communities (LLCs). Between fall 2014 and fall 2015 the retention rate for freshman residing in an LLC was 86%. This shows a higher rate than the university’s general rate. Intentional programmatic efforts and commitments from multiple campus partners are just a couple of several variables that contribute to the 86% retention rate, which is 5% higher than the overall university percentage (81.3%).

The success of the LLCs are attributed to encouraging students to attend and actively participate in community experiences that are coordinated by the faculty and administrators of the program. The Spears School of Business and the FIT (Freshmen in Transition in the College of Agricultural Sciences and Natural Resources) have provided many opportunities for members of their communities to engage. The Mocktail (students have a chance to practice their networking skills and proper etiquette, considering that business conversations can take place outside of the office) and the Business Etiquette Dinner (teaches students the etiquette needed to make an impact at that first business lunch or dinner with clients) are just a couple of examples of programs that are sponsored by the Spears School of Business. During the Spring of 2016, FIT has been working on a philanthropic event with the organization, Stop Hunger Now. The students in FIT are currently raising $6,000 to provide $25,000 of bagged meals for malnourished children across the globe.
Getting A Perspective

A Hall Full of Priceless Experience

Global 10

Global 10 is located on the tenth floor of Wentz Hall and is a place for U.S. and International students to share a supportive and welcoming community at Oklahoma State University. The community is a home that gets students plugged into campus, builds diverse friendships, and immerses residents in a variety of global cultures found at OSU. This LLC is ideal for students with goals that may include mastering other languages, pursuing study abroad, working abroad after graduation, traveling internationally, or teaching English as a second language.

4 Benefits of Living Learning Communities

1. Fosters Academic Success
2. Builds Positive Community
3. Encourages Involvement
4. Promotes Diversity
ABOUT Honors Housing

Honors Housing is designed to be conducive to the study needs of Honors students. Living in Honors Housing provides a strong peer-support network, as well as easy access to opportunities for academic enrichment through a variety of co-curricular activities offered each semester. In Stout, the Honors living room is also a hub of social activity. Events include the very popular “Tea with Huxley” (the Honors therapy dog!) and weekly board game nights with the Dean of the Honors College. Students are also encouraged to participate in hall governance, through both Bennett and Stout Hall Community Councils. Honors College students have two options for housing on campus, Stout Hall and West Bennett. Stout Hall is centrally located and offers traditional residence hall accommodations. West Bennett features Honors housing on the 3rd and 4th floors, and provides suite-style living in a number of room layouts with a full service kitchen and laundry room on each floor. Honors housing is open to all students accepted into the Honors College who remain in good standing.

“The Honors Housing students are naturally invested in everything, and it is neat to see how easily the community is formed due to common interests as well as how they are always looking for ways to improve the community.”

-OLIVIA MILLER
STOUT RESIDENCE DIRECTOR
The purpose of the DEF Living/Learning Community (DEF LLC) is to enhance the first year experience of students in the Multicultural Engineering Program. The DEF LLC equips incoming freshmen with the skills necessary to persist and graduate with an engineering, architecture, or engineering technology degree from Oklahoma State University.

Maude’s Quad (Women in Engineering) is located on the 4th floor of Allen Hall, DEF (Diversity Engineering Floor) is located on the 3rd floor of Allen Hall, but no matter where you live, Allen Hall is open to all Engineering students.

The Engineering Houses are located in Allen and Parker Halls and accommodate students majoring in Engineering or related fields. Allen provides suite-style housing, while Parker provides traditional housing (two to a room, restrooms and common areas on each floor) at a more economical price.
ABOUT Freshmen In Transition (FIT)

Freshmen In Transition (FIT) is an LLC in the Village for the College of Agricultural Sciences and Natural Resources (CASNR) that helps CASNR freshmen successfully transition into OSU. Students transition to college by providing an atmosphere for personal and academic growth through engagement, service and networking. The program sets expectations important to student success and fosters independence, interest in new experiences, leadership development and academic excellence. Students are encouraged to investigate and practice beneficial behaviors and incorporate them into their college experience.

“THE FIRST WEEK OF A STUDENT’S COLLEGE CAREER CAN BE DAUNTING, AND BEING AWAY FROM HOME CONTRIBUTES TO THIS. THE FIT PROGRAM IS STRUCTURED TO ESSENTIALLY BE THE HAND THAT GUIDES STUDENTS THROUGH THEIR FIRST YEAR AS AN INDEPENDENT YOUNG ADULT.”

-KATIE SMITHSON
ACADEMIC PROGRAM COORDINATOR
The Media House LLC is located on the third floor of Village Hall C, with close proximity to the Colvin Center, OSU’s nationally recognized premier fitness facility. This floor is sponsored by the School of Media & Strategic Communications (SMSC). SMSC offers degrees in Multimedia Journalism, Sports Media and Strategic Communication. Freshman students take two classes together during their first semester, and all classifications of students, freshmen through senior, will live together in the community. SMSC Faculty and Staff are involved with residents of the floor both in and out of the classroom.

“BEING IN THE MEDIA INDUSTRY MEANS NETWORKING IS CRUCIAL IN ORDER TO BE SUCCESSFUL AND THE MEDIA HOUSE DEFINITELY FOSTERS THESE CONNECTIONS.”

-MARTINUS MCCONNELL
COMMUNICATIONS AND MARKETING RESIDENCE DIRECTOR & FORMER SMSC STUDENT
Human Sciences House is located in Village Human Sciences. Students apply to be accepted to The PETE Project program, which is an opportunity for residents to experience support from Student Academic Mentors through small-group and community-wide experiences. Faculty and administrators interact with students throughout the academic year.

**Village Human Sciences (HS)**

Health Education Promotion (Located on the third floor of Village E) is a learning community geared to preparing students to promote the science and art of helping people change their lifestyles to move toward a state of optimal health. It creates an environment where students are engaged with other students and faculty within the Health Promotion discipline. The house is open to all classifications.

**3rd Floor Village E**

The TEACH House is located on the third floor of Village E and is the place to live if you are a student in the College of Education who is interested in Teacher Education. Elementary and secondary education majors are encouraged to live together on the floor and take classes together to strengthen the learning experience.

**3rd Floor Village E**
CONTACT US
100 Iba Hall
Stillwater, OK 74078
405-744-5592
www.reslife.okstate.edu