

Drake University
Division of Student Life
Strategic Plan
2006-2010

Mission

To complement the University's academic curriculum by providing experiences in community service and leadership activities through Drake's clubs and organizations, thus fostering responsibility and accountability in a changing global society.

Vision

To help students reach their highest potential, effecting positive change in their lives and the lives of others.

Guiding Principles

For many students, the educational and discovery process takes place, in large part, outside of the classroom. Student Life plays a significant role in that process, promoting total engagement with students that fosters a balanced educational experience and prepares students for success after graduation.

Student Life plays an important role in advancing integrated learning at Drake. Drake staff and faculty work collaboratively to offer students such learning opportunities as residential learning communities, interdisciplinary studies, wellness education, Residence Life annual Leadership Conference, career development/portfolios, capstone experiences, New Student Orientation, Greek Week, and Welcome Weekend. Thus, their academic and student development experiences are intentionally connected.

The following goals and strategies are in place to help accomplish Student Life's mission.

Goals and Strategies

Goal 1: To contribute to the University's holistic learning environment

Objective A: Enhance partnerships and collaboration among various departments on campus and within the greater Des Moines community.

Strategies:

- Expand current educational programs that involve faculty and staff in residence halls, student activities, general student population, and Greek Life (e.g., faculty share relevant life experiences).

Responsibility: Director of Residence Life.

Implementation: Fall 2007

- Continue to support faculty and staff dinners and workshops at individual fraternity and sorority houses

Responsibility: Director of Greek Life and Assistant Dean of Students.
Implementation: Fall 2006

Objective B: Provide opportunities for students to apply academic principles to Student Life activities, e.g. residence life, Student Senate, Resident Assistant roles, and various co-curricular programs.

Strategy

- Work with student leaders, staff and faculty to collaborate on such activities as Residence Life Fall Leadership conference and Don Adams Leadership Institute

Responsibility: Director of Student Leadership & Director of Residence Life
Implementation: Fall 2006

- Create Student Leadership Coordinator position to help coordinate student leadership, student organizations, and volunteer service

Responsibility: Director of Student Leadership
Implementation: Fall 2006

Objective C: Increase faculty involvement in Student Life programs, committee work, and other services

Strategy

- Partner with academic departments to create theme floors and learning communities

Responsibility: Dean & Associate Dean of Students & Director of Greek Life
Implementation: Fall of 2007

Goal 2: To improve communication and availability of information related to student life

Objective A: Improve web-base services to make current information easily accessible

Strategies

- Conduct online residence hall sign-up for returning students

Responsibility: Director of Residence Life
Implementation: Fall 2008

- Create opportunities for student input on new technological services
Responsibility: Assistant Dean of Students
Implementation: Spring 2007

Objective B: Provide staff with the appropriate technology and training to deliver services and information to students and the Drake community

Strategies

- Identify, appoint, and train a staff member to become a broad-based expert on web-based services, student needs, and future trends

Responsibility: Dean of Students
Implementation: Spring 2007

- Educate students through Times Delphic, Drake's web page and workshops about being cautious when using personal web sites

Responsibility: Dean of Students
Implementation: Spring 2007

Goal 3: To promote life-long healthy living and life style choices

Objective A: Promote physical, mental, spiritual, and emotional well-being

Strategies

- Provide ongoing alcohol and substance abuse education

Responsibility: Director of Health Services
Implementation: Fall 2006

- Offer programs on suicide prevention, mental health, eating disorders, men's and women's health issues, sexuality, and contemporary trends

Responsibility: Director of Counseling Center
Implementation: Fall 2006

- Increase peer to peer programming and interaction utilizing student organizations such as BACCHUS, RHA, IFC, and Pan-Hellenic

Responsibility: Director of Health and Counseling Services
Implementation: Spring 2007

- Provide late-night and weekend programming that offer alcohol alternative options and campus community-building

Responsibility: Assistant Dean of Students
Implementation: Fall 2006

Objective B: Seek external funding for education in alcohol use/abuse and personal safety

Strategy

- Develop grant writing team to seek external funding

Responsibility: Dean of Students
Implementation: Fall 2006

Goal 4: To foster a campus community that respects human differences and promotes civic responsibility and social justice

Objective A: Provide ongoing educational programs and experiences in cross-cultural understanding through residence life, student activities and leadership development

Strategies

- Create a series of cross-cultural retreats and multicultural competence campus-wide programs

Responsibility: Director of Leadership and Service Programs & Director of Residence Life
Implementation: Fall 2006

- Ensure current programming such as Black History Month, Hispanic Heritage Month, Gay Pride Week, and Martin Luther King celebration provide opportunities for students to understand human differences, civic responsibility and social justice

Responsibility: Assistant Dean of Students
Implementation: Fall 2006

- Continue to emphasize diversity regarding in recruiting, staff development and training and alumni relationship

Responsibility: Dean of Students
Implementation: Fall 2006

Objective B: Promote civic responsibility by partnering with campus, city, and state organizations, e.g. school district and local business

Strategies

- Broaden participation, goals, and objectives of the Hispanic Advisory Committee, Diversity National Advisory Board, and diverse campus organizations

Responsibility: Associate Dean of Students
Implementation: Fall 2006

- Implement student Coordinator for Volunteer Services position to expand volunteer services and strengthen network with local agencies

Responsibility: Director of Leadership
Implementation: Fall 2006

Goal 5: Provide opportunities for student involvement and leadership

Objective A: Offer an array of leadership programs and services

Strategies

- Provide opportunities through Don Adams Leadership Institute

Responsibility: Director of Leadership & Service Programs
Implementation: Fall 2006

- Utilize students, staff, and faculty to provide peer education through lectures, retreats and seminars based on both the principles and theories of leadership

Responsibility: Director of Leadership and Service Programs
Implementation: Fall 2006

- Partner with alumni, faculty, students, and staff to integrate the Don Adams Leadership initiatives into the academic culture of the University

Responsibility: Dean of Students
Implementation: Fall 2006

Objective B: Encourage student participation in clubs and organizations

Strategy

- Promote campus involvement by encouraging students to attend the Activities Fair, participate in Greek Rush, read the Weekly Campus Calendar, or by joining one or more of the 160 student organizations campus academic social, and sporting events

Responsibility: Assistant Dean of Students
Implementation: Fall 2006

- Develop marketing campaign to educate students on the benefits of co-curricular involvement as it relates to their academic experience

Responsibility: Assistant Dean of Students

Implementation: Fall 2006

Objective C: Provide ongoing assessment of campus leadership programs

Strategy

- Utilizing multiple assessment techniques (e.g., focus groups and surveys) existing leadership programs on a yearly basis

Responsibility: Director of Leadership Services and Programs

Implementation: Spring 2006

Potential Adjustments

Because trends in higher education and student affairs can be unpredictable, this strategic plan is open to revision as necessary.

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