Helping Student Staff Support their First-Year Peers

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Annual Conference on the First-Year Experience 2017
Agenda:

- About Residence Life at Ohio State
- About the First Year Foundations (FYF) Program
- What’s Happened
- Lessons Learned
- Assessment
- Future Plans
- Questions/Comments
- Discussion
About Residence Life at Ohio State

• Four Core Values: Community, Wellness, Inclusion, Learning
• House approximately 14,000 students on Columbus and smaller campuses
• Instituted a 2-year live-on expectation in Fall 2016
• Works to create unique living and learning experiences for first and second year in-hall students
About the First Year Foundations (FYF) Program
First-Year Foundations (FYF)

- Began in the Fall of 2015
- Designed to provide monthly supplemental training and support to Resident Advisors who work primarily with First Year students
- Currently coordinated by the Academic Initiatives staff within Residence Life
What’s happened so far this year

• Nervous and Excited Exercise
• Monthly Action Team Meeting
• Campus Programming
  o Buckeye Escape
  o Meet Your Child
• FROSHtalk e-Newsletters and updates
• Muddiest Points
Supporting student staff
First-Year FOUNDATIONS (FYF)

- Recognizes that some staff are only a year ahead of residents
- Opportunity to explore safe/brave spaces with other R.A.s from all across campus
- Provides immediate and relevant resources and information based on expressed needs of student staff
Check-In

Introduce yourself, and talk a little about how you are feeling/doing now that Welcome Week is over, and we are halfway through the FIRST SIX WEEKS.
Lessons Learned
First-Year Foundations (FYF)

- Allowing student staff to “try out” programs and activities, as participants, helped them add their own spin to activities, and customize them for their hall communities.
- In discussions, there is a hesitancy at times to participate for fear of being a know it all, or not knowing enough about certain job skills.
Assessment
First-Year **FOUNDATIONS** (FYF)

- Muddiest Point
- End of the Year Debrief
- Departmental and Division sponsored student assessments
Future Plans
First-Year FOUNDATIONS (FYF)

- Creation a student staff steering committee to help with planning and design of FYF
- More university faculty involvement to help R.A.s connect with them as resources to support academic success in the halls
- Possible implementation of a single day retreat focused on campus and community resources student staff should know and be able to utilize to support the intellectual and social development of residence hall students
Questions and Comments
Discussion
Thank You!