

# Creating a Second Year Program

Mike O'Neal, Ph.D.  
Director of Second Year Programs



MIAMI UNIVERSITY

# History of the Program

- 2008 Second Year Residency Requirement
- Second Year Programs Office Created
- Budget, Staff and Economy



# Foundations

First-year student research and theory is plentiful

Second-year student research is still an emerging field

Looked to Schaller, Tinto, Baxter-Magolda and local needs of our students



# First-Year Experience at Miami University

Orientation

Summer Reading

Convocation and Summer Reading Speaker

Welcome Week

First Year Advisors Living in Residence Halls  
(full time staff advising first semester)



## Learning Outcomes for Second Year Programs

Commitment to Major

Career Identification

Wellness

Service to the Community

Cultural Competency

Transition to the Oxford Community



# Key Partners on Campus

Office of Residence Life

Career Services

Cliff Alexander Office of Fraternity and  
Sorority Life and Leadership

Student Health

Rinella Learning Center

Community Engagement and Service



# Office of Residence Life

Work with Graduate Hall Directors  
Students First, 20 hours per week  
Buy in is key

Mystery Bus Tours (2 per Semester)

Second Year Celebration (April)

Second Year Send Off (May)

Second Year Retreat (Winter)

Academic Coaching (Fall Semester)



# Cliff Alexander Office of Fraternal and Sorority Life and Leadership

Chapter Exemption

Fraternity Community Advisor  
(FCA)

Community Advancement Program

On Campus Housing Exemption





## Rinella Learning Center

### Second Year Intervention

- Academic Coaching
- EDT 110 (Learning Strategies for the College Student)



## Rinella Learning Center

### Second Year Intervention

Positive Outcomes: Average GPA over 2.0: 7+ Sessions of Coaching, EDT 110, Learning Specialist

Negative Outcomes: Below 2.0  
Did not participate, Did not complete



## Other Student Affairs Programs

Living Learning Communities  
Student Created Learning Communities  
K'NEXion's Dinners  
Welcome Back Picnic  
Out-of State Socials  
Transfer Connections  
Career L.E.A.P  
Lambda Sigma National Honor Society



## Academic Connections

EDL 100 (Career Development for the College Student)

BUS 251 (Exploring Business)

Sophomore Engaged Experience (WST 215 and Engage Chicago)



## External Reviewers

Program scope and early impact data are impressive

Strengths:

- Strong collaborative partnerships
- Well defined student learning outcomes with a clear link to the national research
- Creative programming
- On-going assessment
- Use of technology



## External Reviewers

### Weaknesses:

- Need stronger curricular & academic affairs involvement
- Further clarify assessment plan using Astin's I-E-O model
- Keep webpage updated



## External Reviewers

Your program scope and early impact data are impressive

Recommendations:

- Continue to emphasize high-impact experiences and bring those responsible for those activities to the table to discuss deeper involvement (undergraduate research, study abroad, career center, LLCs)
- Increase staff and use RA's and student organizations more



## Faculty Learning Community

2013 – 2014 Second Year Programs is coordinating a Faculty Learning Community (FLC) where faculty and staff from Miami are examining the second year experience at Miami. The outcome at the conclusion of the FLC is the development of proposals and initiatives that will impact the engagement and success of second year students.





## Assessment Results

Pre and Post Sophomore Assessment with  
Campus Labs

Post Assessments (some iTouch surveys)



## Recommendations to Other Campuses

Must have campus wide support

Clearly defined goals: engagement v. retention

Staffing levels and budget

Academic initiatives

Location of 2YP, Academic or Student Affairs?



## Looking Forward

### MU 2020

Faculty and Staff in residence hall for academic and career advising in a structured and sustainable way.

Mentoring programs in second-year LLC's

Using second-year students as mentors/leaders during Welcome



## Resources

Hunter, M. S., Tobolowsky, B. F., Gardner, J. N., Evenbeck, S. E., Pattengale, J. A., Schaller, M., & Schreiner, L. A. (2009). *Helping sophomores succeed: Understanding and improving the second year experience*. Wiley. com.

Farnum, T., & Associates. (2010). *Prevalence and Composition of Second-Year Programming in Higher Education*



Questions?

