

# Creating a New Living-Learning Community – Building a Partnership of Success!

In Residential Life, we believe students are the innovators, leaders and community builders of the future who deserve a supportive and challenging environment in which to thrive. LLCs serve as a cornerstone for our work with students, allowing Academic Affairs and Student Affairs to come together in support of the holistic educational experience. Through collaborative partnerships, we can build vibrant residential learning communities that foster student learning, growth and development.

Student learning and student development are interwoven in unique and diverse experiences throughout college. LLCs provide a distinctive opportunity to engage students in classroom knowledge and community living through meaningful conversations and interactions with faculty, advisers and peers both inside and outside the classroom. Engaging students in the process of learning outside the classroom is a goal we share with our academic partners, and in Residential Life, we are committed to assisting with this endeavor. Whether your goal is enhanced student engagement, advancement of a specific research initiative or increased student involvement around a topic, an LLC can provide an ideal setting for reaching your goal.

Our role is to partner with faculty and staff to design spaces and foster communities where residents have seamless learning experiences. As we develop a comprehensive residential curriculum for all residents, each LLC will be able to build a program on a solid foundation focused on student development and learning. We are here to provide guidance, support and advice every step of the way in creation of new LLCs as well as enhancing or growing our current communities. We welcome new ideas for LLCs and look forward to working with our colleagues across campus in this endeavor.

## Living-Learning Community Creation Planning Outline

- The Idea
  - Who will be the target population (majors, classifications, interests, affiliations)?
- LLC Leadership
  - Who will be the LLC Coordinator/Faculty Member(s)?
- Additional Resources (additional planning resources/contacts/supports that exist in your department):
  - Stakeholders – who will your planning team need to include?
  - Which faculty members are good matches for involvement (research, interests, and course connections)?
  - Which institutions of higher education have similar communities that you can contact?
- The LLC Program
  - What will the community be named?
  - What are 3-5 possible learning outcomes and/or goals for your LLC?
  - What are the funding needs for the community?
  - What will the funding sources be?
  - Are there possibilities for linked courses or shared majors?
- Recruitment and Assessment
  - What types of staff positions will be needed (full-time, graduate, undergraduate)?
  - How will students be recruited?
  - What is your marketing plan (Residential Life will assist)?
  - What will the assessment plan be for the LLC?
  - How can you assess that you met your learning outcomes?