Bridging the Gap Between the Town and Gown: A Model for Promoting Positive University-Community Relationships

SARA E. HINKLE, PH.D.
WEST CHESTER UNIVERSITY

ANITA ELLIS, M.S.
HOFSTRA UNIVERSITY

ACPA ANNUAL CONVENTION
INDIANAPOLIS, IN
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“Studentification”
A Tale of Two Campuses

Hofstra University
Hempstead, NY

West Chester University
West Chester, PA
A Tale of Two Offices

Off-Campus Living & Commuting Student Services

Off Campus and Commuter Student Services
Keys to Success

- Education
- Communication
- Cooperation
- Collaboration
Education

- Off-Campus Website Resources:
  - Thinking about living off campus
  - The Process
  - Safety Tips
  - Recess Tips
  - Rental Insurance
  - Monthly Newsletters
  - Calendar of Events
  - Frequently Asked Questions
Education

- Off-Campus Living Series
  - Fire and Personal Safety
  - How to be a Good Neighbor
  - How to Read a Lease
  - Social Host Law

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**Off-Campus Living Series**

- **Fire and Personal Safety**
- **How to be a Good Neighbor**
- **How to Read a Lease**
- **Social Host Law**

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**Office of Off-Campus Living and Commuting Student Services**

**Spring 2014 Calendar of Events**

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**Who Are the People in Your Neighborhood?**

Wednesday, February 12, 2014, 6:30-7:30 p.m.

Join us for a lively discussion with experts from your community, neighbors, and property owners in the surrounding area. Learn all you need to know to be a good neighbor and enhance your off-campus experience—important tips on safety, and your legal responsibilities when hosting a party or social gathering.

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**Apartment Hunting or Moving Home**

Tuesday, February 18, 2014, 6:15-7:45 p.m.

Join us in a dialogue about your living options after graduation. Whether you want to move back home or go apartment hunting, we'll help you get the conversation started about weighing your options, dealing with credit card debt and other expenses, and helping support students.

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**Is Living Off Campus for Me?**

Wednesday, March 5, 2014, 11:15 a.m.-12:30 p.m.

Join us for an informative session about moving off-campus, including rental insurance, safety tips, and how to be a good neighbor.

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**Personal Safety Session**

Wednesday, March 12, 2014, 11:15 a.m.-12:30 p.m.

Learn how to take safety at all times—whether you are walking, driving, or socializing.

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**Flavors of the Neighborhood**

Thursday, April 24, 2014, 6:00 p.m.

Join us for a tour of the neighborhood. Admission is free and open to the public.

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**Pet Parade**

Sunday, May 4, 2014, Noon-2 p.m.

Outdoor Plaza, Main Student Center, North Campus

Grab your favorite dog or cat, and join us for our fifth annual Pet Parade, looking for the most colorful, best-looking, and best-behaved pets. Prizes will be awarded. Register with the Office of Off-Campus Living and Commuting Student Services, 221 Main Student Center, North Campus.
Communication

- Commuter newsletter
- Timed email communication
- Key civic leader & community contacts
- Rapid response to community concerns
Cooperation

- Develop Allies
  - Within university community
    - Public Safety
    - Fire inspector
    - Residence Life
  - Within local community
    - Law enforcement
    - Fire department
    - Civic association leaders
    - Landlords
Cooperation

- Community Campus Coalition
  - Vice President for Student Affairs
  - Mayor
  - Director, Off Campus and Commuter Student Services
  - Director, Judicial Affairs
  - Coordinator, Alcohol and Other Drugs
  - Borough police
  - Borough resident
  - Borough council member
  - Local bar owner
  - Property owner
  - SGA representative
  - VPSA Graduate Assistant
Collaboration

Ongoing Service and Community-Based Programs:

- Snow Angels
- Shake-a-Rake
- Beautification projects
- Civic leaders as judges
Collaboration

Ongoing Service and Community-Based Programs:
- Adopt-a-Block Program
- Homecoming Clean-up Event
Collaboration

- Represent University at local community events:
  - MLK Jr. Day Parade, Memorial Day Parade, Civic association meetings
Collaboration

- Welcome Back Picnics
- Move-out Program
Review of Key Concepts

- Education
- Communication
- Cooperation
- Collaboration
Accolades

- New York State Assembly Certificate of Merit, February 2013
- Nassau County Legislature Citation, February 2013
- Uniondale Community Council Honorary Trustee, February 2013
- Citation from the Office Executive of Nassau County, February 2013
- Town of Hempstead Honorary Trustee, February 2013
- Community Liaison Award, Town of Hempstead, October 2012
- Citation from The Office Executive of Nassau County, October 2012
- Community Liaison Award, Hempstead Coordinating Council Civic Association, October 2012
- Certificate of Recognition, Hempstead Coordinating Council of Civic Associations, April 2011
- Certificate of Recognition, Shake-a-Rake, Village of Hempstead, November 2010
Discussion
Sara E. Hinkle, Ph.D.
Assistant Vice President for Student Affairs
West Chester University
shinkle@wcupa.edu

Anita Ellis
Director of Off-Campus Living & Commuting Student Services
Hofstra University
Anita.Ellis@hofstra.edu
Resources & References

- Hofstra University Office of Off-Campus Living and Commuting Student Services website: www.Hofstra.edu/commuting
- West Chester University Off Campus & Commuter Services website: http://www.wcupa.edu/_services/stu.occ/default.asp