Students, Their Activities, Their Communities
Ideas for Good Practice

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Institutional Profile: Suburban, Private, 4-year

Student Population:
Total Number of Students: 2100
% Of students (not to be mutually exclusive)
Part-time 25% graduate 0% age 25+ commuters

Name of Idea for Good Practice: Stormy Nights Late Night Programming

Category: Student Activities

Description of Program/Service/Research:
Stormy Nights is a program developed from the many models of late night weekend programming to meet the needs of students at Simpson for, obviously things to do late at night and on the weekends. Many of the existing models were designed with large schools in mind, but our program had to be adapted to the many inherent challenges at a small school, including budget, staffing and resources. The program has been in place for a year and a half and was originally budgeted for Friday nights only. Since the inception of this program, considerable institutional support has been generated and the program has been expanded to Friday and Saturday Nights starting in the spring semester 2004.

A typical schedule for the Stormy Nights includes discounted movies at the local theatre, some sort of live performance or interactive activity (band, hypnotist, karaoke, etc.), free bowling at the local lanes and a meal at midnight.

Goals/Rationale and Background Information:
The original intent of the program was to provide students with alternatives to the ever present bar nights and also to encourage students to spend more time on campus and less time away or at home. No Stormy Nights program starts before 9pm on Friday or Saturday Nights, programs run until approximately 2 or 3am. Most students, active
times are definitely after 9pm on Fridays and Saturdays! Also the hope was that by providing students with other social alternatives, disciplinary reports & alcohol violations would be reduced.

Resources:
Funding for this program has been significant since the number of programs offered has grown from 1 program on any given Friday night to 4 events on both Fridays and Saturdays. Funding for the Stormy Nights program has been $100,000 from the student government association, $10,000 from a student center account and $45,000 from the institution. Because of the overwhelming success, event space is an issue and the institution is currently in the initial stages of the designing a new student center with more space offerings. Staffing is also a concern with only one full time staff member, but with the larger budget, we have been able to hire more student labor to manage and set-up and clean up events.

Evidence of success:
The program has clearly been successful. After one year, the results clearly showed success in a number of areas. The number of incident reports through our security office on Friday nights substantially decreased. The number of alcohol violations significantly decreased and based upon the Student Satisfaction Inventory (a nation wide survey), student views of weekends and activities went from being statistically significantly below the national norm to being statistically significant above the national norm. All things considered, it showed that our program was a success only after one year. With that success, the institution sought to increase the program and contributed $45,000 to add a second night (Saturday) in the spring 2004 semester.

Additional Information:
This has been an amazing program for Simpson College and was successful far sooner than anyone ever expected. It was also proof that it could be done on a small campus and done well. Student response to the program has been overwhelming and not only do we have more events happening on any given Friday night, our attendance at all events has jumped as well. The culture shift has been amazing in such a short time. Stormy Nights is labor intensive and time intensive, but from the opinions of the students, it is well worth the effort.
Students, Their Activities, Their Communities
Ideas for Good Practice

Name: LeTressa Walker
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Institutional Profile: 4-year

Student Population:
Total Number of Students: 10,225
% Of students (not to be mutually exclusive)
Part-time graduate age 25+ commuters

Name of Idea for Good Practice: Friday After Dark

Category: Student Activities

Description of Program/Service/Research:
Friday After Dark (F.A.D) is a programming initiative sponsored by the Department of Student Activities in conjunction with student organizations. It empowers West Georgia’s organizations to provide late-night socializing and entertainment opportunities on Friday nights. F.A.D will offer late night, student run, and interactive programs for West Georgia students on six Fridays during the academic year. They can start as early as 7:00 pm and run until 2:00 am. Programs will occur once a month in February, March, April, and September, October, and November.

Goals/Rationale and Background Information:
- Increase Greek participation
- Create large events
- More Residence Hall involvement
- More Student Organization involvement
- Better quality events
- To have the Food Court open with specials
- Bigger and Better advertising

F.A.D. will also give student organizations an opportunity to interact with other student organizations that they may not otherwise interact with because of their social interests. This program will also provide great University exposure for student organization in a
non-traditional way. In addition, it will be a great opportunity for student organizations and campus entities to work together and will be a great tin in for student organization and campus entities like food service. Friday After Dark also helps with on of the charges in the Bread and Butter Goals for the University.

**Resources:**
- $4,000+ per Friday After Dark in student funding
- 9-12 specific locations for Friday After Dark to hold various events
- 5-10 staff and student assistants

**Evidence of success:**
An average of 600 students has attended the five Friday After Dark events that have been offered since Spring 2003. Friday After Dark had made a name for itself on West Georgia’s campus and it is a program that can only get better with the proper funding. The Department of Student Activities had tried for years to have a successful weekend program and Friday After Dark is by far the best that has happened to this department in years.
Students, Their Activities, Their Communities
Ideas for Good Practice

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Institutional Profile:  Urban, Public, 4-year

Student Population:
Total Number of Students:  26,300 * Includes Full and Part time students enrolled in
Rutgers College or an Affiliate school, Graduate Students, University College and
Professional Schools on the New Brunswick campus
% Of students (not to be mutually exclusive)
Full Time  64.2% (16,904)
Part-time  35.7%  (9,396)
Graduate  24.5% (6,445)
Age 25+
Commuters

Name of Idea for Good Practice:  Women’s Retreat

Category:  Student Activities

Description of Program/Service/Research:
At Rutgers, women are becoming the growing majority on our campus, however, few
programs and initiatives are developed that focus solely on women. Developing a
women’s retreat may seem like a huge undertaking, but with the dedication of faculty,
staff, and student leaders, the impossible can become a reality. Researchers have found
that women’s development differs from that of men. “For many women, developing
mature interpersonal relationships seems to precede developing autonomy (Greeley &
Tinsley, 1988; Straub, 1987; Taub, 1995) and many women achieve autonomy through
the development of healthy relationships (Straub & Rodgers, 1986; Taub, 1995)”.
A women’s retreat focuses on growth and learning through the development of these
relationships with their peers, administrators and faculty.

The student committees comprised of 8 volunteers design, plans, and implement the
retreat for all the women at Rutgers University. The retreat is a weekend experience
Goals/Rationale and Background Information:

Mission Statement
We, the Women’s Retreat Committee, wish to provide the women of the Rutgers University community with the opportunity to leave campus for a weekend of fun, relaxation, and stress relief. Through these means, we will strive to promote self-confidence, personal awareness, healthy living, and a sense of community, which can be brought into our everyday lives.

Goals and Objectives
To provide Rutgers women with opportunities to build relationships with peers and staff for support, guidance and friendship.

To impart knowledge and encourage discussion about issues affecting modern day women such as self-esteem, careers, relationships, leadership, healthy living, self-awareness, and strength.

To provide a weekend that gives participants of all backgrounds a chance to come together and share a newfound sense of renewal, reflection and direction.

The majority of students at Rutgers University are women. Our office designed a program that will give women students the opportunity to focus on themselves and their leadership potential.

Resources:
The retreat occurs from a Saturday to Sunday afternoon at an off campus location. The importance of taking students off campus is to truly experience the retreat to the fullest and not be detracted by being on campus.

The retreat is completely funded by our office. Students who attend the retreat receive lodging, food and giveaways at no cost to them.

Faculty and staff members present educational sessions throughout the retreat. Each person attends the retreat for their portion of their session. There is only one staff member that stays for the entire retreat and sleeps over. The retreat is run and organized by the student volunteer committee.

Evidence of success:
There was an overall evaluation given to each retreat participate. In total the evaluations totaled a six page document of comments, suggestions and additions to the retreat for future years. Below is a small list of students’ comments on what they gained for this retreat experience:

What did you gain/learn from the retreat?
- I can’t even start
- Job skills
- I got a lot of advice/insight from many of the women guest speakers
- I learned so much more about myself, I am so excited about going into the world and not being afraid to pursue my dreams
- Too much to fit in here
- Women are powerful and can be successful
- How to prepare for the workplace, be a strong woman, speak clearly, etc.
- Empowerment
- Motivation to go on with the rest of the semester and so on
- I have learned more about myself and inner-strength that I have
- I learned about myself, how not to take things personal & how to faster heal their relationships
- So much, indescribable, great feelings of self worth and to be a woman today
- Inner growth

Additional Information:
Brief outline of the retreat
10:30am

Unpack and Check-In
10:45am

Welcome & Gett’n to Know You
11:30am

Welcome Speaker
Opening Welcome Speakers from two outstanding Rutgers Alumnae
Margie B. Laggini Zdenek B.S. Elementary Education RC 1976
M. Theresa Laggini Sankner B.A. Education and Music Performance RU

12:30pm

Lunch/Discussion Session
Get lunch and break up into your discussion groups, which will be lead by members of the Women’s Retreat Committee
1:00pm

Educational Session I:
“Get Ready, Get Set, Get a Job:
Putting Your Best Foot Forward Before, During, and After an Interview”

“Speak Confidently”
2:00pm  
Educational Session II:  

“The Ins & Outs of the Mommy Track”

“Is there a glass ceiling? Is it enacted or cracked?”
3:00pm  
Educational Session III:  

“Networks and Groups: Professional & Personal Benefits!”

“Female Bodies and the Culture of Thinness:  
Women Artists Fight Back”
4:00pm  

Dress for Success

5:30pm  

Dinner/Discussion Session  
Grab some dinner and break up into your discussion groups, which will be lead by members of the Women’s Retreat Committee
6:00pm  

Prominent Rutgers Women Panel  
Every woman has a story – learn the stories of some of our prominent Rutgers women.  
Elaine Bell, Rutgers University Alumnae, DC 1976  
Ann Leonard-House, Head Coach, Women’s Volleyball  
Lenore Neighborne, Associate Dean for Academic Services  
Julie Traxler, Assistant Dean First Year Students
7:00pm  

Discussion Groups Based on Panel
8:00pm  

Self Defense Workshop
9:00pm  

Leisure Activities  
This is your time to mingle with other participants and enjoy the leisure activities we have planned.

Sunday February 23  
9:00am  

Strong Women, Strong Communities..  
Breaking Down the Walls
10:00am
“Creating the Right Relationships”
11:00am
   Every Woman Has a Story & Acknowledging Our Mentor
12:00pm

Lunch
12:30pm

Pack and Load Bus
2:00pm

Arrive at Rutgers
Students, Their Activities, Their Communities
Ideas for Good Practice

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Institutional Profile: Urban, Public, 4-year

Student Population:
Total Number of Students:  26,300 * Includes Full and Part time students enrolled in Rutgers College or an Affiliate school, Graduate Students, University College and Professional Schools on the New Brunswick campus
% Of students (not to be mutually exclusive)
Full Time   64.2% (16,904)
Part-time  35.7%  (9,396)
Graduate    24.5% (6,445)
Age 25+
Commuters

Name of Idea for Good Practice: Hot Dog Day

Category: Student Activities

Description of Program/Service/Research:
The Special Events and Traditions Committee of the Rutgers College Program Council mission is to bring new traditions to the Rutgers community – last year they did just that - with the introduction of HOT DOG DAY!

Now the question may arise – what about the vegetarian population? Problem solved – believe it or not there are vegan dogs. We’re in business!

Hot dog day was an idea developed by the student programming committee to create an event that would include free food, maybe live music and the wiener mobile! Most of the goals got accomplished; the one missing was of course the wiener mobile. But the committee’s substitution was perfect. Ketchup, Mustard and Hot Dog costumes, and the opportunity to get your picture taken with any condiment or the hot dog were the hit of the day.
Close your eyes and picture what I am about to explain. A day in the life of a Rutgers student on Hot Dog Day. Getting ready for the day to begin, and lunch plans on my mind, I stop by the student center for a bite to eat. A member of the Rutgers College Program Council asks me an interesting and intriguing question – “How many hot dogs does the average person eat in a year”? If I get the question right I win a Hot Dog Day t-shirt, if I get it wrong, I get a hot dog shaped pen. My response, “15”. Wrong, the average person eats 60 hot dogs per year. I get a free hot dog pen and a flyer about Hot Dog Day happening today at 5pm. I head to my afternoon classes and see some friends and decide to take the bus over to the Hot Dog Day event. I jump on the bus and get introduced to Ketchup and Mustard. Now, that’s not something you see on a Rutgers bus everyday. I follow Ketchup and Mustard to the festivities and get my Polaroid picture taken. I head over to the caricaturist and the “butt shorts” guy to create my “holla” butt shorts. Music is playing in the background, and extreme sports bikers are creating stunts over the half pipe in the middle of the courtyard. With the smell of hot dogs in the air, I arrive to the hot dog table and grab my hot dog with all the condiments and a drink, spread out my blanket and enjoy the rest of this warm sunny day. What more can a Rutgers student ask for?

**Goals/Rationale and Background Information:**
Rutgers College has a limited amount of traditions for undergraduate students to participate in. The Rutgers College Program Council wanted to develop program that encourage school spirit and traditions at the college. Hot Dog Day was developed. Hot Dog trivia kicks off the beginning of Hot Dog Day. Each year in the middle of April, the student volunteers design a day of music, free food, fun activities, and relaxation.

**Evidence of success:**
Hot Dog Day is in its second year of existence. Our only true evidence of success is the amount of students asking when Hot Dog Day is happening again. That is rare at a campus this large.
Students, Their Activities, Their Communities
Ideas for Good Practice

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Institutional Profile: Rural, Suburban, Public, 4-year

Student Population:
Total Number of Students: 23,200
% Of students (not to be mutually exclusive)
Part-time graduate 5,200 age 25+ commuters

Name of Idea for Good Practice: Coolidge Hall Art Show
Category: Student Activities

Description of Program/Service/Research:
The Coolidge Art Show allowed students to exhibit a unique blending of the talents of not only the staff but also the residents. The program was a forum for the residents to display their art within the community while enjoying live entertainment and refreshments. The necessary incorporation of residents into this program is what made it so unique. The student population in the hall was about 600, primarily first year students.

On a Thursday evening, the show was held in the residence hall lobby area. There were so many students who spontaneously attended the program that attendance was difficult to tract. However, through observation as well as a voting booth established for the public to cast their vote for 1st, 2nd, 3rd and Runner-Up pieces, we estimated that over 100 students attended that night. The location was a key factor in the attendance.

Goals/Rationale and Background Information:
This program had a lasting effect on the residents. Throughout the evening, students were very excited about the program. They were anxious to see who would be declared the winner of the show. The floor mates of those who entered were very supportive of their floor’s artists. Those who entered the show were excited to see the outcome of their judging. Winners were announced that evening and then their abbreviated
biographies and descriptions of their pieces were posted on a lobby bulletin board under the title of “Coolidge Art Show Winners”. After the show, residents stopped by to see who won and to congratulate the winners. Residents continued to talk about it and, of course, carry the memories of the program with them.

Resources:
1. Staff: Four Resident Assistants worked with the Residence Director to coordinate this program. The work group met three times prior to the event and each person was responsible for a task: publicity, entertainment, food, prizes and judging. The group was responsible for set up and arrangement of art work as well as security of pieces. The length of the program was 90 minutes.
2. Entertainment: The student singing group, The Doo Wop Shop, performed several numbers while people were mingling and judging the art. The group and songs performed added class and liveliness to the event for 20 minutes. At other times, jazz CDs were played.
3. Space: Although there were classroom spaces within the building, the show was held in the lobby area which was a more open and inviting location.
4. Budget: The following amount of money was spent on the program:
   - First Prize: $40.00 Certificate to an art store
   - Second Prize: $30.00 Certificate to a restaurant
   - Third Prize: $25.00 Certificate to a coffee shop
   - Runner Up: $20.00 Certificate to a pizza shop
   - Food Cost: $60.00 Cost of food (crackers, cheese, juice, soda, vegetable tray, fresh fruit and punch)
   - Total Cost: $175.00

Evidence of success:
The goal of this program was to provide an educational program to the residence hall promoting interaction between residents and staff. The program not only met it’s goals, but far surpassed them. “In my two years of experience as an RA, this was by far the best program I have ever facilitated”, responded student Lauren Cove. “We wanted to present an art show that showcased the residents’ artwork and incorporated the community. Not only did we have over 15 works of art showcased, but we also had residents who, as they came into the building, saw the show and wanted to submit artwork. We had four pieces that were entered less than an hour before the show began.”

Additional Information:
The presentation of the program was excellent as it complemented the artwork being displayed. The entire program was very sharp. The staff was dressed in black slacks/skirt and white shirts/blouses. Red plastic table covering draped boxes of various sizes on the tables—this was the best way to display the artwork. The lobby was filled with jazz music and the Doo Wop Shop performed during the art show.
Attendants each received one voting ballot to record their votes; voting took place for the first 60 minutes of the show. During the last 30 minutes, the residence director and two staff members tabulated the votes and announced winners at the end of the show. Each staff person contributed about 10 hours of time total (including meetings, accomplishing tasks and time during the actual event). Because the audience was thoroughly engaged in the program, the goals far surpassed our intentions. Lastly, this is a program which can become an annual event on your campus!

As a Residence Director at the University of Massachusetts, I coordinated this program within the residence hall. This program can be successful in a wide variety of institutions.
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Institutional Profile: Urban, Public, 4-year

Student Population: 
Total Number of Students: 20,000  
% Of students (not to be mutually exclusive)  
Part-time  48%  graduate  33%  age 25+  64%  commuters  86%

Name of Idea for Good Practice: The Party

Category: Student Activities

Description of Program/Service/Research:  
The Party is the welcome back event for all incoming new students. It is held on the Friday night prior to school starting, after all the new students have moved into the residence halls. It is a collaboration with several offices within our division of student services, including The Office of Student Activities and Leadership, Multicultural Student Services, the Health Center, Women’s Center, as well as departments outside our division including the University Bookstore and Dining Services.

The main event is a Casino Night with different casino games the students can play. There is also bingo, food, karaoke, and a spades tournament. We recruit student organizations to sponsor different events throughout the night. This lets the new students meet involved students.

We wanted to make the event have an educational component to it, so we made the students take quizzes in order to earn the fake money to play games. There are a total of five “quiz” stations throughout the event that ask five questions pertaining to educational issues for college students. These include alcohol and drug issues, multicultural issues, nutritional issues, getting involved, and sexual assault. The students must answer the quiz and if they receive 3 out of 5 right, they then receive the fake money to play games.
The answers to each of the quiz questions are put up on posters and hung throughout our student center. With 5 quizzes and 5 questions each, there are a total of 25 posters. Students must find and read each poster to get the answers.

At the end of the night, students take the money they have earned from playing games or taking quizzes and exchange it for raffle tickets. The raffle prizes include free books for a semester, TV, radios, DVDs, school gear, etc. It encourages them to stay until the end of the program and it also ensures that they take all the quizzes.

**Goals/Rationale and Background Information:**
There were several goals we wanted to accomplish with this event. The first was to provide a fun event for students on their first weekend night in the residence halls. That way, we could attract students away from attending off-campus parties or events where alcohol would be a problem.

Secondly, we wanted to provide a safe environment for our students in organizations that help with the event. It also offers these organizations, including Greek fraternities and sororities, a chance to meet our new students and share a positive and fun experience with them.

Finally, our last goal was to infuse an educational component into the program. Since they are new college students, we wanted them to be aware of issues related to college life and to learn the statistics that affect all college students.

**Resources:**
Space: We use the student center as our Party location. The cafeteria is used as the casino and quiz area and other hang out areas throughout the first floor of the building are used for the various other events.

Cost: We have a local party company that provides the 20 casino tables and staffing at an expense of $1800. The other games are sponsored and paid for by the student organizations. We get the major prize, free books for a semester, donated from the bookstore. Additionally, we spend about $250 on other prizes. Finally, we spend about $200 on popcorn, cotton candy, etc.

Staff: There were 3 staff members at the event plus numerous student volunteers.

**Evidence of success:**
The success of this event has been amazing. We have done this event for two years and each time, we have gotten an attendance of over 800 students. This is a great way for students to spend their first weekend night.

In addition, we have received positive feedback on evaluations from students. They really enjoy the chance to mingle with new students in a structured environment and have fun. Other commented that the information on the quizzes was valuable.
**Students, Their Activities, Their Communities**  
**Ideas for Good Practice**

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**Institutional Profile:** Suburban, Public, 4-year

**Student Population:**
Total Number of Students: 9000  
% Of students *(not to be mutually exclusive)*
- Part-time 22%
- Graduate 23%
- Age 25+
- Commuters 70%

**Name of Idea for Good Practice:** Orientation Leader Recruitment: Team 0’07

**Category:** Student Activities

**Description of Program/Service/Research:**
In an effort to increase the pool of applicants for Summer Orientation Leaders (OL’s), the Office of Student Involvement and Leadership implemented the Team 0’07 (Orientation Class of 2007) recruitment program. Secret Agents were recruited from faculty, staff, and student leaders to identify potential applicants, answer questions about the position, and encourage students to apply. When a potential applicant was referred, the Secret Agent sent a postcard to the office so I could track the applications.

Although the office sees many students, we understood that the only way to increase the talent, diversity, and number of applicants was to tap respected members of the community that had strong relationships with students from all backgrounds.

**Goals/Rationale and Background Information:**
As stated earlier, the main goal was to increase the diversity of the applicant pool. By diversity, I don’t just mean race and ethnicity. Diversity could mean anything from commuters vs. residents, religious backgrounds, majors, hometowns, sexual orientation, etc. The ultimate goal was to assemble a group of 28 Orientation Leaders that adequately represented the population at Bridgewater State College. In doing so, I wanted to make sure that every student participating in Orientation felt there was someone they could identify with.
Another goal of the Team O’07 program was to get more campus support for the Orientation program in general. Orientation is the first major program that new and transfer students attend at Bridgewater. It has the ability to make or break their view of the college. Although my co-workers understand this concept, it’s imperative that all members of the campus community understand the importance of this program and the significance of those who represent Orientation (the OL’s)

Resources:
This was a simple, yet highly effective program to run. The only cost was approximately $75 for 3 raffle prizes. Each Secret Agent was entered into a raffle for Bridgewater gear. This was a low-cost way to reward them while helping to build pride in Bridgewater.

The entire staff got excited about this program. All staff members were willing to pass out applications and help with questions regarding the Team O’07 program.

Evidence of success:
If you go by numbers, then this program was extremely successful. We had 83 applications for 28 spots on the Orientation team. This number was an increase of almost 30 applications from the prior year.

In addition, the pool of applicants represented almost every walk of life on campus. We were able to assemble a representative and talented staff of Orientation Leaders. Almost every evaluation from the Summer Orientation Program contained a positive comment about the Orientation Leaders.

Finally, the program succeeded by forging new relationships between the Office of Student Involvement and faculty/staff on campus. These mutually beneficial relationships have extended far beyond the 2-week recruitment period last February.
**Students, Their Activities, Their Communities**  
**Ideas for Good Practice**

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**Institutional Profile:** Suburban, Public, 4-year

**Student Population:**  
Total Number of Students: 22,344  
% Of students (not to be mutually exclusive)  
Part-time 21% (5,802)  
graduate 37% (8,272)  
age 25+ unknown  
Commuters 56% undergraduate & 21& graduate

**Name of Idea for Good Practice:** The Festival of Lights

**Category:** Student Activities

**Description of Program/Service/Research:**  
The Holiday Season is a wonderful time of year, filled with celebrations that reflect the rich traditions of people of different cultural backgrounds, faiths, and religious beliefs. To celebrate the season, several student organization and campus departments at Stony Brook University come together each year to present *The Festival of Lights*, and intercultural program where all members of our diverse campus community can appreciate the cultural significance of some of our most widely observed holidays: Ramadan & Eid-ul-Fitr (Muslim), Bodhi Day/Rohatsu (Buddhist), Diwali (Hindu), Hanukah (Jewish), Winter Solstice (Native American), Christmas (Christian), and Kwanzaa (African American).

The program features a series of presentations, each uniquely characterized by the use of lights. Information about the cultural significance of each celebration is shared, followed by an artistic/cultural expression in song, dance, poetry, etc. All of the presenters wear cultural clothing that is appropriate for their particular holiday.

Each presentation is followed by a special lighting ceremony of holiday displays. The displays are situated in the expansive glass-enclosed lobby of Stony Brook’s student
Activities Center, and are quite picturesque when lit. Each display represents the celebrations that are highlighted. For example, there is an Islamic Crescent & Star, a Christmas tree, Advent Wreath & Nativity Scene, Kwanzaa Kinara, Jewish Menorah, Native American pottery ect.

After the lighting, the audience is invited to participate in a Native American Round Dance for Peace. In our adjoining multipurpose room, participants sample some of the popular cultural foods (potato latkes & applesauce, Native American breads, Kwanzaa fruits, ect.) during a post-event reception. They can also participate in a small-round table student dialogues led by Stony Brook’s Diversity Fellows, trained facilitators (mostly faculty & staff) who led small group discussions about diversity issues. The dialogues offer an opportunity for students to share their personal backgrounds, what they have learned during the program and their experiences with other Stony Brook students.

In the spirit of building our community through cross-cultural education and interaction, the participants of *The Festival of Lights* include members of Stony Brook University; students, faculty, staff, and administrators alike. Of course, the families and friends of our campus community are extended guests for the annual event.

**Goals/Rationale and Background Information:**

*The Festival of Lights* provides a unique educational opportunity for students to come together to explore their own personal identity development (through spirituality / religion), learn about others, and see what they have in common with people who are not like them. They are given a rare opportunity to connect history, culture, customs, and the arts, while also sharing their own thoughts and experiences involving the diversity of religions/faiths/spirituality with others in a safe, supportive environment. The integration of sight, sound, and food present in an informative enlightening manner makes this program memorable for the students who participate. Very few campus programs provide opportunities for small group (intimate discussions) about diversity topics and community building.

**Resources:**

*The Festival of Lights* is co-sponsored by several campus groups including:
- Dean of Student Office*
- Department of Student Union and Activities*
- Interfaith Center*: Baptist Campus Ministry, Catholic Campus Ministry, Islamic Society of North America, Lubavitch Youth Organization.
- Women’s Studies Program*
- Center of India Studies*
- Buddhist Study & Practice Group
- Essence of Praise (Dancers)
- Hillel Student Club
- Muslim Student Association
- Stony Brook Gospel Choir
- Student Organization Creating Indigenous Awareness (SOCIA)
- UNITI Cultural Center

* These groups provided most of the funding. Funding was also provided by the Diversity Challenge Grant, an initiative of the Office of the Vice President for Student Affairs.

**Evidence of success:**
*The Third Annual Festival of Lights* took place on December 3, 2003, attracting over 100 people. The program was expanded from the previous year to include presentations about Bohdi Day/Rohatsu (Buddhism) and Diwali (Hinduism). The presentations, signing, dances, and the demonstrations were spectacular.

Stony Brook’s student newspaper reported on the event, giving detailed coverage and interviews. One student was quoted as saying, “Everyone just came together on this one night to celebrate what we all have in common.”

**Additional Information:**
This event serves as a model of collaboration between Student Affairs, Academic Affairs, and student clubs and organizations. The student groups that are involved are empowered to develop a program that reflects their personal identities while sharing their diversity. Only in its third year, *The Festival of Lights* has fast become a Stony Brook tradition that our campus looks forward to each Holiday Season! It is a program that Stony Brook University is proud of.
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Institutional Profile: Rural, Public, 4-year

Student Population:
Total Number of Students: 38,564
% of Students
- Part-time 10%
- Graduate 17%
- Age 25+ (not-tracked)
- Commuters 35% live on-campus. Others live in fraternities, sororities, cooperatives, and private housing.

Services Offered by Your Institution:
Leadership Series, Programming Board, Specific Weekend Programs, Community Service, Greek Life, Major specific organizations, Performing arts programming, Leadership Classes, Theme months/celebrations, Homecoming, Campus Activities Newsletter, Retreats, Peer advising/consulting, Advisor Initiatives, Faculty/Student Collaborative Activities

Name of Idea for Good Practice: Grand Alternative

Category: Student activities/programming, Theme celebration, Research/Data collection

Description of Program/Service/Research:
The purpose of Grand Alternative is to provide substance-free events for Purdue students in the hope that fewer students will turn to alcohol-related activities, thus resulting in fewer acts of violence and vandalism, fewer arrests, and fewer negative consequences from alcohol use. This program is a collaboration between the Office of the Dean of Students, Student Wellness Office, Division of Recreational Sports, and the
Wesley Foundation. The mini-grants for student organization programming are made possible by a generous grant from the Coalition for a Safe and Drug-Free Tippecanoe County as well as funding from the Office of the Dean of Students. All Registered Student Organizations are invited to apply for funding to sponsor a substance free event during Grand Alternative/Grand Prix Week April 20-27, 2003.

**Goals/Rationale and Background Information:**
Provides safe alternatives to high-risk behaviors during Grand Prix Week. Allows students to create their own events with funding.

**Resources:**
$6,000 grant from Coalition for a Safe and Drug Free Tippecanoe County
Coordinated by Leadership Coordinator and graduate student

**Evidence of success:**
Since 1999, arrests have dropped by 30%. While we cannot provide a causal link to the decrease, we believe there is a relationship.

**Additional Information:** [http://www.purdue.edu/oop/grand_alternative/](http://www.purdue.edu/oop/grand_alternative/)
Students, Their Activities, Their Communities
Ideas for Good Practice

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Institutional Profile: Urban, Public, 4-year

Student Population:
Total Number of Students
% of Students
  Part-time  48%
  Graduate  33%
  Age 25+  64%
  Commuters

Services Offered by Your Institution:

Category: Student Activities/programming and Other

Description of Program/Service/Research:
Lemonade on the House is held on the first day of the fall semester and Icy-Hot is on
the first day of the spring semester. Both events are held in the Parking Garage, just
outside of Parking Services, where there is a long line of students waiting to get their
parking pass. In the fall we hand out free lemonade and in the spring hot chocolate.
We also put up our display board and have free give-aways such as the Off-Campus
Student Guide, Search for Off-Campus Housing, monthly calendar of events, stress
houses, ice scrapers, pens, magnets, ODU antenna balls and more. Dining Services co-
sponsors this event so the drinks are donated, in return we hand out brochures on the
commuter meal plans.

The event is co-sponsored by Student Senate. In return for a display table, the Senators
assist in passing out information and lemonade to the students waiting in line.
**Goals/Rationale and Background Information:**
The purpose of the program was to reach as many commuter students as possible in a short amount of time to inform them of our programs and services. Since it is such a captive audience the line to purchase parking passes provided a great opportunity.

The idea evolved as a result of program from another University. That program consisted of having tables at the various parking lots in the morning and distributing hot chocolate. That program was tried with minimal response, most of the students did not stop, indicating they were late for class. A staff member from Parking Services commented that it was a great idea and wished we had been there the day before when they had a long line.

**Resources:**
Space for the table was coordinated through the Parking Services office and tables were rented from the Facilities Management Office.

Cost: the table rental was approximate $20, and the give-aways, which are purchased for the entire semester.

One to two staff members at the event as well as two from the sponsoring group.

**Evidence of Success:**
It is a very captive audience because they are in line for so long. Many students commented on how much they liked the monthly calendar of events. Numerous students were observed reviewing the Dining Services pamphlet, which is great news for the sponsors, even if it was a result of the students having nothing else to do in line.
Students, Their Activities, Their Communities
Ideas for Good Practice

Name: Jennifer Kingsley
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Institutional Profile: Urban, Public, 4-year

Student Population:
Total Number of Students
% of Students
Part-time 48%  
Graduate 33%  
Age 25+ 64%  
Commuters

Services Offered by Your Institution:

Category: Student Activities/programming and Other

Name of Idea for Good Practice: Commuter’s Take 5

Description of Program/Service/Research:
Once a month, on a different day of the week, in different building each month, a display table is setup with information pertinent to commuter students. This includes off-campus housing information, information about the commuter assistant programs, did you know facts about commuter students, current student events and activities, off-campus student guide, and other topical information. At each event we have a cookie platter and a fruit tray as well as drinks for free. This helps draw students to the display, but plenty of the students approach the display because it is colorful and captures their attention.

The other unique feature of the program is we have a free raffle drawing for ODU paraphernalia and commuter specific items such as gift certificates for oil changes, coffee mugs, etc. In order to enter the drawing students respond to a different question
each program. The purpose of the questions is to obtain ongoing feedback on the types of programs, services the students would like as well as feedback about the current programs and/or services. Examples include: What type of programs and/or resources should ODU provide for commuter students?, What can ODU do to increase school pride among commuter students?, How can Recreational Sports increase commuter participation in the Recreational Sports programs?, etc.

Different campus departments and student organizations are invited to co-sponsor the event. Co-sponsors bring their own display and materials in return for providing the raffle prize. The co-sponsor can also request the question that is used that week for the raffle. All of the responses are compiled and sent to the sponsor.

**Goals/Rationale and Background Information:**
This program began as a mid-day snack for commuter student inside the Webb University Center. After receiving positive feedback from moving a similar event to other buildings it was decided to move this event to various buildings on campus. Additionally, the time was changed to the late afternoon in an effort to reach a different population of students that often is neglected.

The goal of the program is to inform commuter students of the various programs and resources that are available and targeted to meet their needs. Another goal is to reach out to these students and interact with them in their environment as opposed to expecting these students to come to our office. Students are constantly commenting on how they did not know about these services and are appreciative that we brought it to them.

**Resources:**
Cost is approximately $130 per Take 5 and includes the delivery of the food, which is highly recommended. The space and display tables are reserved through campus scheduling and it relatively easy to obtain the space. On some occasions the dean of the college must approve the space, so far all deans have been extremely supportive of the idea. The Library even allowed the use of a special room for the consumption of the food. The display table was outside of the food room to draw attention to the program.

Prize cost is minimal because the sponsors cover the cost. In the event there is no sponsor the costs can be minimized. All prizes are purchased when the University Bookstore has a big clearance sale.

One to two staff members are at each event to speak with the students that stop by the table, as well as the sponsors typically have one to two people at the table. It requires very minimal preparation time once the display board has been designed.
Evidence of Success:
While there are a few regulars, the majority of students that are seen at these events are students that have not interacted with our programs in the past. The comments range from: “I had no idea this was here!” to “I wish I had know about this before my last year on campus!”, and of course the best “Finally, something is being done for commuter students!” The raffle questions have provided some great suggestions for programs and ideas on how to inform commuter students of the various opportunities on campus.
Students, Their Activities, Their Communities
Ideas for Good Practice

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Institutional Profile: Urban, Private, 4-year

Student Population:
Total Number of Students: 16,348
% of Students:
- Part-time 27 %
- Graduate 23 %
- Age 25+ 12 %
- Commuters 74 %

Services Offered by Your Institution:
Leadership Series, Programming Board, Specific Weekend Programs, Community Service, Greek Life, Major Specific Organizations, Performing Arts Programming, Theme Months/Celebrations, Welcome Week, Homecoming (non-traditional), Commuter Services, Retreats, Advisor Initiatives, Faculty/Student Collaborative Activities

Name of Idea for Good Practice: Activities Unlimited

Category: Student Involvement

Description of Program/Service/Research:
Activities Unlimited
Activities Unlimited is more than just a student involvement fair. It provides opportunities for student groups as well as student focused offices (athletics and alumni) to share opportunities for students to become actively involved on campus.
Goals/Rationale and Background Information:
As a cooperative education institution that is in session 12 months a year and has a population change over every 6 months, it is important for us to constantly reintroduce opportunities of connection to our students. Instead of a traditional Welcome Days in the fall, we have developed a “Welcome Back” Week which is offered in both the fall and spring terms to meet the needs of our ever changing population. A week of transition and social and social programs provide our student’s opportunities to ease back into the educational environment and make connections after being away from campus for six months.

Resources: (funding, space, staff)
The event is held on our academic quad with 100(+) tables. Recognized student clubs and organizations register for a table and are encouraged to be as creative as possible in their presentation. Many groups provide giveaways. The cost is basic (table rentals, union fees, etc.) and music is provided free of charge by the campus radio station. Prior to the event, the Office of Campus Activities develops a map and groups clubs and organizations that are alike in order to assist students in finding specific groups that are of interest to them. For example, religious groups, sports clubs, cultural groups, etc. are in placed in a general location. The Office of Campus Activities staff is on site to assist groups in finding their table, directing traffic and staffing our own table which includes free food. Being in Philadelphia, we use a Philly theme and giveaway traditional fare such as Tastykakes and soft pretzels.

Evidence of success: (either qualitative or quantitative research)
The number of group participants and attendees has grown over the past two years. In addition, we provide a “Get Connected” service to our organization participants. Get Connected is an email list of students who have identified a specific type of group as an interest to them (Student Government, Fraternity/Sorority Life Honors). We provide the list to our organizational presidents and they email information to students within 2 weeks of receiving the list. We have seen an increase in student organization participation based on this outreach effort.
Students, Their Activities, Their Communities
Ideas for Good Practice

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Institutional Profile: Urban, Private, 4-year/5-year

Student Population:
Total Number of Students: 16,348
% of Students
  Part-time: 27%
  Graduate: 23%
  Age 25+: 12.7%
  Commuters: 74%

Services Offered by Your Institution:
Leadership Series, Programming Board, Specific Weekend Programs, Community Service, Greek Life, Major specific organizations, Performing arts programming, Leadership Classes, Theme months/celebrations, Welcome Week, Homecoming, Peer Advising, Commuter Services, Retreats, Advisor Initiatives, Faculty/Student Collaborative Activities

Name of Idea for Good Practice: Supernatural Week (Campus Activities Board)

Category: Student activities/programming, Theme celebration

Description of Program/Service/Research:
This is an annual theme week sponsored by the Campus Activities Board (CAB). It is a celebration of the week prior to Halloween. Events in the past have included: trips to haunted hayrides and amusement parks celebration Halloween, scary movie marathons, candy apples and cider on the campus quad, late night ice skating with
costumes for reduced admission, and “dress like characters” from a movie for reduced admission prices.

**Goals/Rationale and Background Information:**
This provides students with a non-alcoholic outlet for social activities. This allows students to participate in activities that are in and around the city of Philadelphia for greatly reduced prices.

**Resources:**
The CAB is allocated a large amount of money to meet the programming needs of all undergraduates at Drexel. The committee that sponsors Supernatural Week uses a portion of this funding to make as many events as possible be free and only charges a nominal amount when it needs to. Members of the CAB staff the events with their full-time advisor.

**Evidence of success:**
Each year, more students participate in the annual week. Most events sell out in a short period of time and those events with food are depleted quickly. One specific event, haunted tours of the local abandoned prison sells out each year in a matter of days.

**Additional Information:**
This event is planned and implemented solely by the students on the CAB. With the help of the advisor, the trips are a fun, safe alternative to parties and other Halloween related activities.