Accommodating and Celebrating the Seasons at NIU
Team #6

Accommodating the Seasons at NIU

- Covered or enclosed walkways
- Wind Breaks -- more trees in strategic places
- More Shade -- more shade-type trees
- More Colorful Campus -- greens and flowers; signage in NIU colors instead of brown or blue
- Add Buses -- in bad weather, more shuttles to train, heated bus stops, "bus hub"

General

- Designate one of the new quad areas "The Orchard," and plant with fruit trees that students/faculty/staff can pick, and food service can use produce;
- Spirit Games that go beyond Greek System;
- Band flash mobs throughout campus;
- Band Rally March before home games;
- Incentive Program to use One Card to be involved in events;
- Help DeKalb residents have NIU spirit through banner/spirit giveaways to residents;
- Help each DeKalb neighborhood have its own personality/representation;
- Battle of the Bands on MLK Commons each Friday;
- Create long-term service projects to give students a relationship/connection to community throughout their time at NIU;
- Nightlife for grad students on campus (coffee shop, comedy club, etc. to communicate on social, but professional level);
- Community Dinners open to everyone in the community for free (expanding on current local church programs, but getting on the monthly schedule), providing entertainment by NIU students in music performance programs;
- Permanently host Barbed Wire Betties roller derby team at Field House;
- Sell NIU apparel with logo from campus-wide design contest;
- Assist alumni to return to campus, even if they don't have the resources to return;
- Decorate buildings seasonally (interior and exterior);
- Major university-wide competition;
- Parents Weekend/Mom's Weekend/Dad's Weekend/Sibs Weekend -- expand to be university-wide events instead of just for Greek system;
- Coordinate with community colleges so that their ID cards get students access to NIU events;
- Make all classrooms smart classrooms;
- Keep library & computer labs open 24/7.
Celebrating Seasons

Fall

- Football Boosters (or NIU alumni or supporters in another way) parade to field on game day, led by band and football team;
- Bring back the Bell -- bell ringing at win/touchdown/score;
- Contest prize or donation appreciation -- Pet “Mission the Huskie” on game day;
- Halloween Trick-or-Treat through buildings;
- Haunted House (Altgeld?),
- Haunted tour of campus;
- Campus-wide Thanksgiving Dinner for students, faculty, staff, and community members who don’t have anywhere else to go;
- Flag Football Tournament;
- Bonfire;
- We are in an agricultural area, so bus shuttles to nearby orchards or pumpkin farms;
- Use nutrition and hospitality programs, as well as food service, to cook from these farms/have recipe contest/teach how to use ingredients;
- Farmers Market (either extend DeKalb Market, or create another “Green Market” on campus on a different day of week);
- Horseback riding;
- Tour DeKalb (Tour de France): visit landmark areas throughout DeKalb and Sycamore via bike, bike race/ride through DeKalb, and/or long-range bike race set up between Genoa and DeKalb (or further);
- Work with Community Partners to put on races that are popular with Boomers who have $ to spend in local community (marathon, 1/2 marathon, 5K, bike races, etc.)
- Scavenger Hunts: Students form teams in a search for landmarks or trivia throughout the campus;
- Collaborate with DeKalb to tie campus events to Corn Festival, Pumpkin Fest, etc.

Winter

- Ice skating rink in Chick Evans Field House;
- School snowball fight -- create tradition on 1st snow;
- Snowshoes, cross country skis, etc. available at a rental kiosk on east side of campus;
- Sledding/skiing/snowboarding -- build an incline kids/adults can sled down (near engineering building or space near Convo);
- Reading Day Beach Party -- decorate library, have everyone wear summer clothes, beach ball toss in MLK Commons;
- Pass out hot chocolate to students;
- Bobsledding team competition -- create sleds to compete against one another (using recycled materials maybe?)
- Snowman building competition (make it a tradition): by category that can be entered by students, a college, a school, a program, etc. Category suggestions: Creativity, Construction, Humor, Interesting, School Spirit
- Festival of Lights: lighting MLK Commons and/or celebrating the winter being partly complete and the weather warming up;
• Bus or train trip to Geneva for Christmas Walk (or another area festival);

**Spring**
• Huskie March Madness with campus-wide events: Jeopardy, Family Feud, Minute to Win It -- by residence hall, college, program, etc.
• Planting trees -- great way to bring community together;
• Bags Tournament;
• Kayaking in the Lagoon;
• Scale Sailboat Competition in Lagoon;
• Star Gazing: NIU Observatory;
• Mud Runs;
• St. Patrick's Day Celebration;
• Flash Mobs
• Community Garden Planting;
• Outdoor concerts in center of campus on new quad area;
• Sculpture garden around lagoon (St. Charles Park Dist. does this around Mount St. Mary's Park every year. It is a great reason to run or walk that loop and provides visual interest with loaned pieces from artists);

**Summer**
• Music Festival like Lollapalooza around campus and community;
• Expanded summer school offerings and services to entice students to stay, and students will participate/live on and off-campus and spend $ in community;
• Picnic with old-fashioned games;
• Change advising/scheduling system so that can predict summer session offerings sooner rather than later;
• Pool party;
• Campus BBQ;
• Ultimate Frisbee Competition;