Ensure the First-Year Residence Hall Experience Results in Student Career Success

- **Positive aspects of First-Year Residence Hall Experience**
  - Living Learning Communities promote floor bonding and a sense of community through activities related to the student’s field of study
  - Involved Community Advisors (CAs) are able to create an environment that is beneficial and fun for students
  - Access to food is convenient and comforting for students (especially those who have never lived independently)
  - Being placed with a compatible roommate promotes a fun, successful first year experience in the residence halls

- **Negative aspects of First-Year Residence Hall Experience**
  - Difficulty switching roommates after unfavorable experiences
  - Uncleanliness in the community areas
  - Lack of activities or poor communication of activities throughout the year
  - Uninvolved CAs leading to disconnect between floor mates
  - Independent living can lead to feelings of isolation and homesickness
  - Financial Burden

- **Potential Changes**
  - Implement more Living Learning Communities in order to connect students who share similar interests and goals
  - Have multiple CAs or “Floor Ambassadors” to facilitate group activities throughout the semester
  - Host more events for families on the weekend to entice the students to remain on campus and showcase NIU’s family, friendly environment
  - Host more events relating to student’s career interests to excite them about the potential careers they can achieve
  - Train CAs to facilitate year round floor activities to promote the community concept within the residence halls
  - Develop a system to place students with a roommate who will, through similar goals and lifestyles, enhance their experience in the residence halls
  - Provide new students in the residence halls with peer mentors
  - Make the “Huskie Helper” program year round rather than just at welcome week
  - Utilize social media (Facebook, Instagram, Twitter) to inform and excite students about residence hall events

Submitted by Table 10:

Gary Baker       Erin Reid
Jason Goode      Dana Stover
Elizabeth De Guia Dan Templin
                 Mike Verbic