“Ensure the First year residential hall experience results in student career success”

How Can We Capture the Opportunity?

1. Summarize Findings:
   a. We find more career-oriented programs being offered in the Honors portion of the residence hall when the bulk of our student population is not in the honors program.
   b. Many students feel the residence halls do meet expectations and feel the cost is prohibitive.
   c. All students we spoke with stated the Community Advisor was critical to feeling connected and being successful at NIU not only the first year but throughout all years of attendance.
   d. Students want to be able to connect more with others in the same program and prospective employers in their field of study.
   e. Students want Knowledgeable Faculty, Staff and Administrators that will provide them with good customer service and help them avoid administrative and financial pitfalls that may delay academic progress.

2. Summarize Insights:
   a. We have the opportunity to provide well-trained, enthusiastic Community Advisors who have their fingers on the pulse of our first year students. The CA is critical to student connectivity and retention.
   b. We have the opportunity to provide excellent service ensuring that faculty, Staff and Administrators are Knowledgeable, well trained and interacting positively with students; advocating on behalf of students rather than passing them off to other areas.
   c. We have the opportunity to connect students with employers and reduce the cost of living in the residence halls.

3. Summarize Ideas: (here is our stroke of geNIUs)
   a. Bring Corporate Sponsors to the residence halls! Rather than sending students to career fairs where they are one of hundreds and feel they don’t stand out, bring career opportunities to the students by bringing employers into the residence halls.
      i. It’s a Win/Win situation; corporate sponsor helps to reduce the cost of living in the residence halls and in turn develops a relationship with our students.
      Sponsors reap the rewards by providing internship opportunities and employing exemplary goal-oriented students.
      ii. The interaction with employers may help undecided students who lack direction get excited about the opportunity, decide on a major and set an employment goal.
      iii. Sponsors may wish to get involved as student mentors.
      iv. It is also a great way to get students who are like minded together for social interaction. (i.e. the Hamilton Sunstrand Engineering wing)
      v. The possibilities are limitless

Respectfully Submitted by table 13: Gigi Beaird, Edye Cowan, Liping Guo, Wendell Johnson, Lina Ong, Chris Pilling