

2017-2018 Assessment Final Report

Department: Student Involvement and Leadership Center

Sorority Fraternity Community Partnership

Introduction

Assessment Project Description

The Sorority Fraternity Community Partner program is a collaboration between SILC/SFL and the Center for Service Learning (CSL). In this program chapters and community agencies apply to be matched together, and then once matched enter into a one year contract for ongoing service.

25 chapters were partnered this past academic year, and the leadership team felt it important to survey and determine what reflection and learning was occurring from the experience. We hoped students could identify their privileges and the value of giving back to their communities as a member of a Greek letter organization.

A simple survey with 5 open ended questions was sent to chapters in April, at the end of their partnership experience.

Service/Program Student Learning Outcome(s)

- a. Identify the role of community service/civic engagement and social justice as it applies to the obligations of fraternal membership
- b. Articulate the difference between community service and philanthropy projects
- c. Comprehend the value of addressing social challenges by giving time and privilege to their local communities.

Population/Sample:

The Survey was sent to chapter presidents and service officers, or main points of contact that SILC had on file for chapters participating in the SFC Partnership program.

Assessment Method(s): Electronic Survey sent over Email in April, 5 of 26 chapters participating responded. 4 PHA Sororities, 1 IFC fraternity

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Summary of Key Findings/Results:

4 of the 5 chapters have a good working relationship with their community partner organization.

- 1 shared that it was excellent, and that they would also like to develop a more comprehensive plan of support for next year
- 1 felt the relationship was good, and had some positive and negative aspects
- 1 was Great! The chapter was provided with many opportunities, and the women loved volunteering there. They provided both ongoing support, and programmatic help.

5 chapters were able to specifically identify why Community service is a pillar of the Greek community

- Through helping others we grow as individuals as well
- Giving back to our community is how sororities came to be, it shows our commitment to helping those around us for the good of the community
- It is our duty and privilege to give back to a community that gives so much to us. Doing hands on work with those in need is one of the best ways to show that we are thankful for what we have been given
- Develop the leadership skills necessary to be successful in college and in life beyond graduation
- Fraternities/Sororities are a great potential for good in the community and there is no better way to do so than through community service.

5 Chapters were able to identify the difference between Community service and philanthropy projects

- All 5 stated something to the effect of Service is volunteering, and philanthropy is raising money for a cause.
 - o "Service is donating time, to benefit individuals in a community or the whole community, philanthropy is the act of raising money, awareness and/or goods for an organization"

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Conclusions

This program has the potential of being transformative for the organizations participating. We have had some organizations finding great success and value in the experience and others who struggle. As shared of the sampling of groups who replied they are gaining a greater understanding of the value of service.

Impact of Assessment

The information we gleaned from the survey was valuable, we need to find ways to survey chapters earlier in the year to measure impact and also intervene if a partnership isn't going well. We also need to find a way to make sure all chapters are participating in reflection and critically evaluating their experience as an expectation of being a part of SFC.

Lessons Learned

The original intention of this assessment was to measure the learning twice during the year. We ended up only evaluating once. I would like to see us use the same questions, as the information is valuable, and to do it twice next year for the reasons listed above. I would also like to see us increase the expectation for chapters in the program to participate in reflection and evaluation of their experience.