

2016-2017 Assessment Final Report

Department: Student Involvement and Leadership Center

Fraternity Sorority Community Partnership 2016-17

Introduction

Assessment Project Description

The purpose of the Fraternity & Sorority Community Service Partnership is to support the development and goals of the Greek letter organizations at the University of Kansas while also addressing community needs and building meaningful relationships with non-profit agencies in the Lawrence community. It is our hope that this relationship will nurture personal growth of students, renewed commitment to and enthusiasm for community service by Greek organizations on campus, important dialogue about social issues, and long-term relationships that help address the most important needs in the Lawrence community.

The purpose of the assessment project was to learn if the FSC Partnership program met the intended learning outcomes, and that both community agencies and Fraternity/Sorority chapters had a positive and meaningful experience.

Service/Program Student Learning Outcome(s)

Students participating in the Fraternity Sorority Community (FSC) Partnership will be able to...

1. Identify the role of community service/civic engagement and social justice as it applies to the obligations of fraternal membership
2. Comprehend the value of addressing social challenges by giving time and talent to their local communities.
3. Articulate the difference between community service and philanthropy projects

Population/Sample: Community Service chairs and Presidents of all participating organizations (6 PHA, 3 MGC, 16 IFC) Evaluation sent to 26 Community Agencies

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Assessment Method(s): Evaluation/Survey and Interviews

Summary of Key Findings/Results

Interviews: Overall the Interviews were unsuccessful, we had requested chapters send in the officers in charge of the program to meet with staff, in most cases that did not happen. The little data gathered in the interviews was similar to what was seen in the Survey results.

Two surveys were conducted: One with chapters (7 responses) and one with community Partners (18 responses)

Highlights from FSC Chapter midyear check in Survey:

- 100% felt they were communicating effectively with their community partner
- 100% were able to clearly distinguish the difference between philanthropy and service.
 - o Philanthropy was defined as- Fundraising, raising monies, raising awareness, seen as pecuniary.
 - o Service was defined as- helping community for free, donation of time/labor to an organization, comes from persona actions, investment of time to an organization/cause.

-100% felt they were receiving adequate support.

- o Those interviewed and a few of the survey respondents stated additional check in's from the FSC leadership team would be valuable.

Highlights from FSC Community Partner Mid-Year check in Survey:

83% stated that they had had a positive experience with their partnership and indicated the following themes:

- o Attitudes and perception of the volunteers, they have all been wonderful ready to experience new things.
- o The women are dependable and do a nice job when here

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- Help staffing the event was priceless, have them deliver each week has been great as well
- The genuinely seem like a great engaging group of men
- We have had a lot of committed volunteers who come every week
- Cooperation and eagerness to learn

66% expressed challenges with the experience sharing things like:

- Commitment and Follow through
- Communication and maintaining interest
- Finding reliable members to fill our volunteer spots
- Limited availability of members
- Lack of response over email when reaching out about upcoming events
- Having the members get more involved in the organization and getting to know each other better
- Consistency in volunteers for specific things like coaching teams

55% Felt they were communicating effectively with their partner

45% stated that there were struggles with communication. Things Like:

- Email doesn't work well
- Did well at first, and then communication dropped off
- Responses over email have been slow
- There has been communication in person and via email but this has not resulted in much help

38% stated their perspectives on Fraternity and Sorority volunteers hand changed in the following ways:

- Self Motivated, enthusiastic group of students
- Hoping volunteers would be more organized
- More willing to help than thought they would be
- Very smooth, consistent and targeted service to needs, vs students showing up to complete hours.

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Conclusions

While there have been bumps along the way, this was year one and overall its been a positive experience for most chapters and agencies. The FSC Planning team which consists of staff in Sorority & Fraternity life, and the Center for Service learning, has taken further examination of how we can strengthen our support for the program in the upcoming year.

Impact of Assessment

The impact wasn't large, but it helped to see in writing what we had assumed may have been happening between groups throughout the year. We were able to identify strategies for support going into the spring, and adjust our expectations for what a successful match looked like. We rewrote the applications to match organizations for the upcoming year based from these surveys.

We had three groups sign up for the 2017-18 school year who are remaining with their partnership from this past year, so we look forward to assessing those groups specifically to see what further impacts this experience has on them.

Lessons Learned

- Our expectations for both community partners and chapters needed to be stated more explicitly
- We need to market to more community agencies and chapters intentionally. 2017-18 we have chapters from all four councils participating.
- We need to do further assessment and check in's with all parties throughout the academic year
- We needed to adjust the language in the application to get a stronger assessment of chapter's interest and ability to support, as well as the needs of the community agency so we were more intentional in who was matched together.
- We needed to start the process earlier, Match day for 2017-18 was done in May of this year, and a kick off event will be held in September



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- We needed to get the FSC leadership team together more often to make sure we are all on the same page to offer support, the leadership team needs to add in appropriate officers from all four councils.
- We needed to celebrate the program, and find funding to allow us to do that.