

Virtual Case Study Project Summary

Institution: Texas State University

Program Advisor: Dr. Paige Haber-Curran and Dr. Shannon Dean Scott

Team Captain: Eboney Mitchell

Team Members: Andy Moreno, Deja Miller, Maura Mangum

Residence Hall Open House Event

In choosing the open-house style of residence hall event, we wanted to give the opportunity for the residents to talk to one another in an environment in which they felt comfortable in, their rooms. Since we are still dealing with the aftermath of the pandemic, we also wanted to provide the students with an event where they do not need to physically need to be close to each other to participate. This was also an opportunity for residents to build community with their neighbors. As first-year students, this is likely the first time that they are living on their own, so being able to build a strong support network with their neighbors and building RAs and Directors is key to helping students with their transition into college life. In hosting this event, we hope to get our first-year students out of their shells and more importantly, out of their rooms. In seeing the trend of low attendance at residence hall events, we are prioritizing relationship building and group connection to encourage higher attendance for future campus events.

BOKO Campus Resources Scavenger Hunt

To encourage first-year students to connect with resources and programs across campus, we have planned a campus-wide scavenger hunt. This event would be in partnership with various offices and organizations that can provide support to students during their transition. Students who live in residence halls on campus often find more comfort in the personal space of their rooms rather than within community spaces. Our goal for this event is to introduce students to

campus staff and resources that can provide them with opportunities to join student organizations, to find academic support, and an overall community within Texas State. Students who attend this event will gain confidence in their Texas State experience, their connections, and their sense of belonging.

Considering that first-year students at Texas State University are required to live on campus in the residence halls, their experience of acclimating to college can be difficult for them to cope with due to the transition from home. We have connected Nancy Schlossberg's 4's of Transition Theory to our scenarios as students have an opportunity to discover support and strategies to help their transition. Schlossberg identifies these factors to include Situation, Self, Support, and Strategies. Students matriculate into the institution coming from various backgrounds and lived experiences that may be different from their environment on campus. The changes occurring in their lives, can cause stress and largely affect the perception of their individual lives. To help remedy their experiences of transition, our scenarios provide examples to create learning opportunities of support and involvement. From these measurements of support, students can take what they learned in the scavenger hunt and the connections that they built in the open house to develop strategies to manage their experiences of transition.