

2023 Virtual Case Study Justification

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Resident Advisor Programs

Throughout college campuses across the country, it has become increasingly notable that fewer students take advantage of events and programs that their resident advisors (RA) plan. Furthermore, COVID-19 has had a significant impact on mental health, with many people experiencing increased levels of stress, anxiety, and depression. A strong sense of community on campus can provide a supportive environment where students can connect with one another, share their experiences, and seek support when needed. Every semester, RAs work hard to draft and execute program ideas they believe will intrigue residents and benefit them in some way. Despite this effort, they are often met with low attendance numbers. This sometimes presents a waste of material and resources that could have directly benefited their students and created that much needed sense of community. Research has even shown that students who are engaged in campus life are more likely to be successful academically. A strong community on campus can provide students with access to academic resources, peer support, and mentoring opportunities, all of which can contribute to academic success. For these reasons, our group has chosen to promote RA programs for the purpose of advocating for student workers and encouraging increased participation in their programs.

Being a team comprised of housing professionals, we recognize the effort RAs put into their job, especially when planning programs. The process of planning and executing a program can be tedious. RAs must format and propose their idea, come up with creative strategies to promote the event, gather materials/presentations needed, and then hope their residents attend. Simply executing one program can take weeks of planning and workshopping. That's why it is so devastating to see, first-hand, student workers getting so passionate about their work, only for minimal turnout to occur. We hope our submission encourages students to want to attend their

RA programs and participate in their community. Not only does this make a difference in the lives of students and RAs, but it also advances UA's residential curriculum.

3-D Printing

3-D printing stood out as a resource that hardly ever gets any attention on campus. Moreover, it is housed within a sector of campus that does not get much attention to begin with anyway: the libraries. While students see these spaces as prime studying and group work locales, they often forget about the resources that are at their disposal through the library system. 3-D printing is the most notable of those resources. For a small cost, students are able to print themselves a new piece of desktop décor, a gift for a friend/family member, or they are able to visualize a project/patent design that they may be working on. Furthermore, 3-D printing has amazing implications in the near future as printers are now able to print objects of various materials like wood or glass. So, we wanted to highlight 3-D printing with hopes of intriguing students to take more advantage of the resource. In addition, our hope was by highlighting 3-D printing that students may be drawn into the other resources that the library provides.