

Greetings Commission for Housing and Residential Life Members!
July 2013 Newsletter



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Amy Franklin-Craft, Ph.D.

It's a great day in housing and residence life! As I sit at my desk and contemplate that June is nearly over, I'm reminded of the HRL "cycle." We're all (students and staff alike) ready for some time away from one another as the school year ends. Just when we begin to miss the hustle of campus life, and are settled into a summer routine of conferences, and training preparation, it's time to start preparation for the fall semester (or trimester)! I hope you can take a few minutes out to read the contents of this month's newsletter. One of the tidbits of information you'll relate to an poll completed by the Commission in early June. We thank those of you who participated and encourage everyone to participate in further projects. The data we gather, as informal as it is, helps to guide the Commission's efforts to provide resources for you, select appropriate programs for sponsorship this fall, and much, much more.

Have an enjoyable July! Be writing to you soon!

Assessment

The directorate body's Civic Engagement and Pluralism and Inclusion work group created a quick and dirty survey to see what they could learn about the self-perceived competency levels of HRL professionals in the areas of civic engagement and pluralism and inclusion. The survey was sent formally through e-mail and informally through an open request on our Facebook

page. Scientific research it is not but it provides insights nonetheless. Keep in mind, because this is not formal, systematic research, your ability to generalize the information is limited. Fifty-five people participated in the survey (though some did not finish the entire survey). Of the participants, 35% are new to the field (less than 3 years experience, including graduate work). 40% might be considered newer to mid-level (4-10 years) and the last 26% have worked professionally for more than 11 years (of these 7% more than 20 years).

Data Bits of the most pressing needs for further development:

In terms of civic engagement, between 30-35% of the participants indicated that they needed to (this was a new area for them):

- Develop skills to recognize systemic barriers to student development
- Beef up knowledge of major campus policy and strategy issue, debates, and decisions impacting students.
- Learn more about major public policy issues and debates and decisions at the national, state and local levels.
- Learn more about philosophical, political, demographic, economic and social justice issues relating to higher education at all levels of government.
- Develop their knowledge of the various ways of encouraging students' engagement.

Another 50% or so indicated that while the above mentioned areas were not new to them, they were still developing in these areas. '

In terms of pluralism and inclusion, the vast majority (more than 90% of respondents) of participants were new to an area or developing in the following areas:

- Ability to conduct and assess climate surveys (new area for 45%).
- Ability to develop and implement an ongoing strategic plan for the development of multicultural competence (new area for 35%).
- Ability to provide effective supervision and training that encourages and allows for both continued self exploration as well as cultural and instructional learning (new area for 25%).
- Ability to provide opportunities for diverse interactions with professionals in higher education who focus on this work (new area for 20%).
- Ability to apply advocacy skills to assist in the development of a more multiculturally sensitive institution and profession (new area for 15%).
- Ability to design culturally relevant programs, policies and practices (new area for 15%).

As many as 80% of respondents were new to or developing skills in:

- Ability to create intentional educational, social and cultural opportunities for staff to learn about others (new area for 10%).
- Knowing the history, current needs, strengths, and resources of cultural groups who have been historically underserved and under-represented in higher education (new area for 10%).
- Understanding the impact of attitudes, values, beliefs, assumptions, biases, identity, heritage and life experiences on our work (wasn't new to anyone).

A number of individuals, upwards of 50% are new to or developing skills in:

- Ability to assess and address their own multicultural awareness (new area for 15%).
- Know their own abilities and limitations in addressing cultural issues (new area for 15%).
- Ability to develop cultural skills by participating in activities that challenge themselves (new area for 15%).

What does this data mean to you? Based upon research with which you familiar are, how does this information compare? How does it inform your professional practice and or preparation for training of your colleagues? We encourage you to visit

http://www2.myacpa.org/img/Professional_Competencies.pdf, to learn more about the professional competencies developed by ACPA. In addition, the Counsel for the Advancement of Standards 8th edition has a fantastic section on Housing and Residence Life. This too can inform how you evaluate yourself as a professional as well as the department in which you work.

Sincerely,

Amy Franklin-Craft, Ph.D.

Chair, Commission for Housing and Residence Life



saGROW: New Connections, Career Development, and Support in Our Field

The saGROW program may have begun as a Twitter phenomenon, but is so much more!

saGROW is ACPA's career development and mentoring program. Professionals of all years of experience and place in career can apply to serve as a mentor, a protégé, or both. ACPA saGROW matches individuals to connect three times a year, and helps facilitate a 12 week dialogue between pairs that discusses professional goals, maneuvering political climates, ethical decision making at work, supervision experiences, and next steps in the profession. It is a program created to help us have that additional brain to pick, ear to listen, or good place to ask questions and engaged in dialogue.

The concept of saGROW originally began on Twitter (@ACPAsaGROW), but the program exists in a variety of forums and has developed to a new place. Assessment of our first two cohorts have shown that growing relationships can take place in a variety of settings and discussing issues going on in your professional world with someone off campus can be a great time to think, reflect, and get a new perspective. People are matched based on interests and years of experience, but honestly, saGROW and the mentoring relationship is what YOU make of it.

If you are looking for an opportunity to connect with someone new, share your past experiences, or think about your next steps, saGROW is a program that can help you and your career. It is a free service that ACPA offers. Applications are currently being collected for the next Cohort, which will begin in September.

How to Apply:

Both mentors and protégés can apply for the program by completing the ACPA saGROW Interest Form found at www.myacpa.org/career-development/mentoring.

Who Should Apply?

Anyone! ACPA saGROW loosely matches mentors and protégés based on experiences and interests to help ease the conversation, and provides conversation starters to spark dialogue. Protégés currently include grad students, new professionals and mid-level professionals. Mentors currently include new professionals, mid-level professionals and senior-level professionals.

Benefits of Participating

ACPA saGROW is designed to uniquely fit the needs of each mentoring pair within the cohort period; the opportunity exists to continue mentoring relationships beyond the cohort, as each pair believes best. Mentors appreciate being able to give back to the profession, help young professionals, and share insight as being key reasons for joining and participating in the program. Protégés cite looking for advice, wondering about the job search or job transition, struggling with balance or next steps, or wanting to have someone to process or learn from at a different campus as key reasons for participating.



Awards Nominations: Recognize Great Work!

It is never too early to start thinking about recognition! Since 1977, the Commission for Housing and Residential Life has recognized outstanding achievements and contributions in the field of student housing. The 2013-2014 Commission Directorate Body is proud to carry on the coordination of this important tradition. **You will be able to submit Award Nominations in late October so now is the time pay attention to and record the great work of your colleagues!!** The Commission Awards include:

- Outstanding Undergraduate Student Staff Member
- Outstanding Graduate Student Staff Member
- Outstanding New Professional (In their first three years of professional employment)
- Outstanding Experienced Professional: Two categories - 4-9 years, 10 or more years
- Excellence in Service (non-ResLife student or professional staff person)
- Excellence in Sustainability: Two categories - Program, Individual
- Outstanding Innovation in Housing and Residential Life

For a description of each award visit <http://www2.myacpa.org/housing-awards/housing-award-descriptions2>. If you have questions about Commission Awards, please contact Troy Seppelt at tseppelt@coloradomesa.edu





ACPA 2014

Call for Programs is now Open!

Start our reinvention by submitting your program proposal for the 2014 ACPA Convention in Indianapolis and get sponsored by the Commission for Housing and Residence Life. The CHRL selects several program proposals that it feels are highly relevant to residence life professionals. These programs are designated as CHRL's "sponsored programs" and the presentations are given special prominence in the program booklet for that conference. The [online call for programs form](#) is now open! Educational program submissions are due on **September 5, 2013**



2013 RCI

Resident Curriculum Institute

October 20-23, 2013
University of South Carolina
Columbia, South Carolina

The 7th Annual Residential Curriculum Institute (RCI) co-sponsored by ACPA's Commission for Housing & Residential Life and Assessment & Evaluation will challenge you to rethink the practices and grounding philosophies of your residential program! Follow this link for more information: <http://www2.myacpa.org/professional->



Attention History Geeks!

ACPA 90th Anniversary

For ACPA's 90th Anniversary, our commission would like to put together a retrospective of Housing and Residence Life Programs over the past 90 years. If you have pictures, information about policies (with dates), etc. Please send them to Amy Franklin-Craft at frankl96@msu.edu. Please use the following format:

1. Institution
2. Information included/attached
3. If you have a preference for how it's laid out
4. Are you interested in helping to create the final product?
5. Your contact information (name, e-mail, phone, institution, etc)



CHRL on the Web

Stay Connected with Us!



We are putting an emphasis on the Commission's social media presence! Like us on Facebook at www.facebook.com/ACPA.CHRL. On Twitter, follow us @ACPA_CHRL. Invite your Res Life friends to "follow" us and "like" us! Watch for a new blog hosted by the Commission in the near future!



Did You Know?

New wording for Comfort Animals as part of the Fair Housing Act came out on July 1. How does the new wording affect your institution?



[Get Involved with the Newsletter!](#)

Want to write an article?
Have a topic you want to know more about?
Have information or an event to share?
Just follow the link below!

[Submit to the Newsletter](#)

The next newsletter is coming in September!
Use the link above if you have articles, announcements or information you'd like to submit!



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