UNIVERSITY AT ALBANY
State University of New York
STUDENT ENGAGEMENT ANNUAL REPORT 2017-2018
FRESHMAN ENGAGEMENT

IN THE CLASSROOM

- 1700 freshmen attended lectures at Explore UAlbany during opening weekend 2018.
- 19 stand-alone freshman seminars enrolled 475+ first semester freshmen.
- 5 Targeted Learning Clusters supported approximately 100 freshmen.

92% Of freshman L-LC respondents found it valuable to live with others who shared their interests.

GIVING BACK

- More than 500 L-LC students engaged with community partners during our award-winning Living-Learning Community Connections.
- More than half of the L-LCs actively participated in a recycling competition throughout the year.
- L-LC freshmen supported cancer research, prepared taxes for low income residents, helped at after school programs, and created activity kits for hospitalized children.

98% Of freshman L-LC respondents made friends at UAlbany as a result of participating in an L-LC.

OUT AND ABOUT

- More than 220 L-LC students took day trips to Dippikill, Lake George, and Thatcher Park/Indian Ladder Farms throughout the year.
- Over 70 L-LC students connected with healthcare professionals at Albany Medical Center through our Connect! partnership.
- The World of Digital Forensics won the first ever “Community Cup” and enjoyed a trip to an indoor water park as their grand prize.

88% Of freshman L-LC respondents reported connecting with faculty other than their faculty mentor.
TRANSFER ENGAGEMENT

SUPPORTING TRANSFER ACADEMIC SUCCESS

- Over 150 prospective transfer students participated in our annual Transfer Day in May.
- Over 600 new transfer students attended a Welcome event within the first three weeks of the Fall 2017 semester.
- 60 transfer students attended Community College luncheons, designed to familiarize new students with key campus resources and introduce them to “The Driving Force,” UAlbany’s commuter student club.

81.6% Of transfer students are returning for a third semester in Fall 2018.

TRANSFER SUPPORT STRUCTURES

- The UAlbany Transfer Advisory Group was implemented in the Fall of 2016 and includes faculty, staff, and transfer students. This group assessed transfer needs, developed ways to better support transfers, and worked to implement these practices across campus. There are 26 active members in the Transfer Advisory Group.
- The role of the Transfer Liaison was developed to serve as a point of contact for transfer students. Liaisons serve as a network of colleagues with knowledge about unique transfer concerns and needs, to whom departments can refer students. There are a total of 50 liaisons.
- Transfer Transition Leaders (TTLs) serve as a resource for new transfers. TTLs are peer educators who are trained extensively on how to help new transfers. TTLs are individually assigned groups of transfers and communicate with them via email and social media.
- The Driving Force (commuter student club) was implemented to help commuter students get more involved on campus.
- A nontraditional student club was implemented to support students 24 years or older who are continuing their education.

BY THE NUMBERS

6 Transfer Living-Learning Communities
113 New transfers in Living-Learning Communities
7 Faculty/staff mentors for L-LC students
1,500+ Transfers participating in Student Engagement programs
13 Transfer Transition Leaders (TTLs)
15 TTL-organized programs
6 Welcome receptions and lunches for new transfers
400+ Current members in Tau Sigma (transfer honor society)
THE IMPACT OF ENGAGEMENT:
FRESHMAN L-LC & SEMINAR RETENTION

- Average freshman to sophomore retention bonus: 6-8%
- Average sophomore to junior retention bonus: 9.2%
- Graduate in four year bonus: 12.5%
- Fall 2016 Freshman GPA bonus (on a 4.0 scale): .17
- Average freshman to sophomore retention bonus: 2.5%
- Average sophomore to junior retention bonus: 3.3%
- Average graduate in four year bonus: 5.3%

World of Community Service alumni reconnected with their faculty mentor and received L-LC stoles at our L-LC Comeback event prior to graduation.
THE IMPACT OF ENGAGEMENT: TRANSFER PROGRAM SUCCESS

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>5%</th>
<th>Average fall to spring transfer L-LC retention bonus</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>8.9%</td>
<td>Average transfer L-LC retention bonus for a third semester</td>
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<tr>
<td>.19</td>
<td>Fall 2017 L-LC Transfer GPA bonus (on a 4.0 scale)</td>
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<tr>
<td>30+</td>
<td>Peer mentor/mentee matches</td>
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<tr>
<td>125</td>
<td>Transfer students took special transfer only sections of “Challenges for the 21st Century” classes</td>
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<tr>
<td>.13</td>
<td>Fall 2017 Challenges GPA bonus (on a 4.0 scale)</td>
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<td>206</td>
<td>Students were inducted into Tau Sigma, the National Honor Society for Transfer Students</td>
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<tr>
<td>150+</td>
<td>Students participated in programs offered by the commuter club, The Driving Force</td>
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Who are our transfer students?

Our Largest Feeder Institutions

1,926 transfer students enrolled in 2017 - 2018:
- 1,779 are in-state
- 119 are international
- 28 are out-of-state students

Top counties our transfers came from:
- Albany: 336
- 5 boroughs of NYC: 304
- Saratoga: 144
- Schenectady: 103
- Rensselaer: 101
Supporting Undergraduate Admissions

75+ L-LC and TTL students supported Open Houses, Accepted Student Events, and Scholar Days.

25 current L-LC students engaged with 200+ prospective students via GroupMe, co-managed by the Office of Student Engagement and Admissions.

The L-LC F.U.N.D.
The L-LC F.U.N.D. consists of upperclassman L-LC alumni who coordinate and plan social events for all of the L-LCs.

Last year's highlights include fundraisers at restaurants and “Meet the Members,” an exclusive academic club fair which connected more than 180 L-LC members to student groups prior to the Block Party.

A free-standing brochure display now resides outside of LC 31, containing information for Admissions’ tours.

L-LC freshmen performed 20+ visits to high schools over winter break to promote Student Engagement programming.

L-LC F.U.N.D. members are committed to Fundraising, Unifying the Worlds through programming, providing Networking opportunities for L-LC students, and Donating back to the worlds.
CHEER Grants

Student Engagement continued its mission of facilitating high faculty/student engagement by awarding a record number of CHEER grants in 2017-2018. A total of 18 grants were awarded to departments from Theatre to Physics and to programs from Writing and Critical Inquiry to Portuguese Language study. Grants supported engagement in the following colleges and schools: CEHC, CAS, SPH, and CEAS. We supported a freshman writing contest, Portuguese language movies, a physics competition, dance classes with internationally renowned experts, and a new urban planning class that uses drones.

Students use drones as part of their urban planning research.

Academically Engaging with UAlbany Guest Speakers

Student Engagement partners with many departments to engage prominent guest speakers into our academic enterprise. In the fall, when the NYS Writers Institute welcomed Bob Schieffer to campus to host a panel about “Telling the Truth in a Post-Truth World,” over 150 students studied his work in classes and attended this panel discussion. More than 400 copies of Overload were distributed in advance of his appearance and discussions on this topic were embedded in over a dozen classes.

In the spring, UAlbany welcomed NPR’s Michele Norris to campus as our keynote speaker for the Martin Luther King, Jr. Day celebration. To capitalize on this opportunity, faculty were given copies of her book, The Grace of Silence, and a special discussion was held for faculty and students to speak with Ms. Norris about her life and the Race Card Project, a diversity initiative she founded.
UNDERGRADUATE ENGAGEMENT

Munch with the Majors
750+ students connected with faculty representing all majors to learn more about degree options and how to make the most of their academics.

Food for Thought
30+ students invited faculty to lunch or dinner in the dining hall to establish personal and meaningful connections outside of the classroom.

Food for Finals: Fall 2017
75+ faculty and staff connected with over 4,000 undergraduates in four dining halls, serving late-night breakfast on Reading Day.

Food for Finals: Spring 2018
40+ faculty and staff connected with over 5,000 undergraduates, serving BBQ favorites outside on the academic podium.
The Living-Learning Community (L-LC) Program was honored with the President’s Award for Exemplary Public Engagement. The L-LCs provide over 550 new students with a welcoming, transitional program that nurtures their connections to UAlbany and our community partners through a structure built around various levels of public engagement. Students participate in public engagement work through structured “All World” activities, through their individual L-LC, and through individual contributions.

During our Living-Learning Community Connections Weekend in September, over 500 students participated in service projects on- and off-campus. Throughout the academic year, our L-LC faculty, students, and student leaders continued to partner with over 30 different community organizations. Through community engagement, our students find more value and meaning in their UAlbany education.

Faculty Recognition
Student Engagement recognized nominated faculty at this year’s Torch Awards. Dr. Victor Asal is this year’s awardee and will speak at Convocation.

Club Advisor Appreciation
Student Engagement recognized faculty and staff club advisors and E-Board members at an event in the spring with over 150 people in attendance.
Our students are highly engaged!

With support from SA, 100+ new students took a day trip to explore Dippikill in the fall.

Each semester, Transfer Engagement hosts a luncheon for new transfers from community colleges to get to know each other and learn about the academic support services on campus.

Academic peer educators supporting our freshman seminars met with peer writing tutors and academic peer tutors to connect and share their experiences supporting undergraduate education.

World of History and Current Events students explored the NYS Museum.

TTLs hosted a holiday stress relief program with therapy dogs on Alumni Quad.
Human Library Project:

Student Engagement partnered with Student Affairs, the NYS Writers Institute, UAS, and many academic departments to bring this international phenomenon to campus as a pilot program in the spring of 2018. Over 250 students “checked out” one of our ten amazing “human books” and engaged in dialogue about their fascinating stories. We plan to host this program annually after hearing that two-thirds of student survey respondents had a deeper appreciation for UAlbany community members as a result of attending the program. WMHT (the local public broadcast network) covered the event and created an excellent video promoting the high engagement happening at UAlbany.
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