



THE OHIO STATE UNIVERSITY

OFFICE OF STUDENT LIFE

Learning Communities and First-Year Student Success

*Focusing on the First Year Conference
January 27, 2015*



Your Presenters: Who Are We?





The Audience: Who Are You?





Session Objectives



Why Learning Communities?

- High Impact Practice (Kuh et al.)
- Key outcomes for LC participants from the NSLLP (Inkelas et al., 2007)
 - Positive interactions with peers and faculty
 - Use of residence hall resources
 - Perceptions of an academically and socially supportive residence hall climate
 - Positive peer diversity interactions
 - More likely than their counterparts in traditional residence halls to experience an easy academic and social transition to college
 - More likely to indicate higher scores in their critical thinking abilities and application of knowledge abilities



Learning Communities at OSU

A Learning Community is a group of students who live together on a residence hall floor with common major, career and/or personal interests. We intentionally form LCs around a range of topics, including:

- Academic Majors
- Interest Areas
- Needs Based upon Year in College



Hallmarks of a Successful Learning Community:

Direct Connection to the Classroom Experience

Intentional Events and Opportunities

Dedicated Staff and Faculty Interaction

Critical Mass of Students

Residential



LCs by the Numbers

Residence Life currently offers **17** different programs.

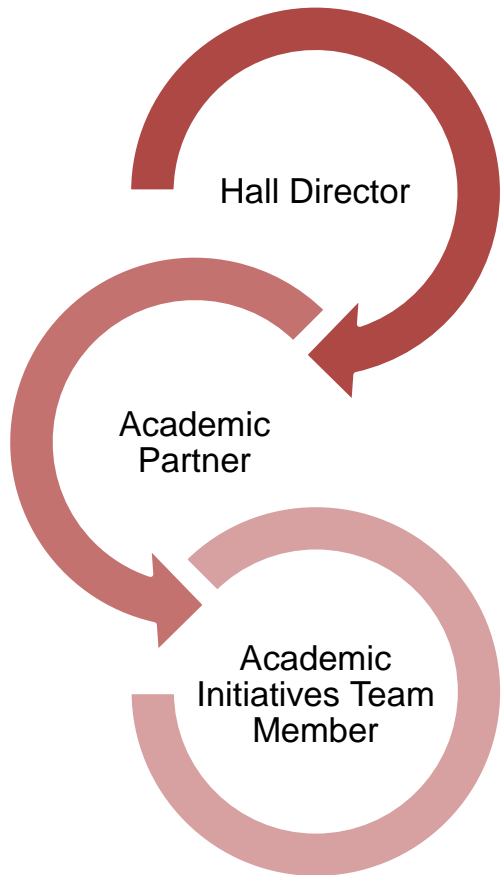
LCs range in size from **20** to **100** students.

In 2014-2015, about **13%** of all OSU first-year students are affiliated with one of our LCs.

We currently have LCs housed in **13** different residence halls on campus.



LCs: A “One University” Approach



Partners include:

- The College of Food, Agricultural, and Environmental Sciences
- The College of Engineering
- The College of Nursing
- The College of Pharmacy
- The Department of Agricultural, Environmental, and Development Economics
- The Fisher College of Business
- The John Glenn School of Public Affairs
- The School of Health and Rehabilitation Sciences
- University Exploration



LC Collaboration

RL Support: marketing, recruitment and admissions; program planning and implementation; student communication and engagement; budget support

Partner Support: content expertise and college perspective; faculty and alumni connections; presence in community through academic advising hours and program participation; course creation and support; occasionally budget support



Academic Majors



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NURSING
RESIDENCE LIFE



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PHARMACY HOUSE
RESIDENCE LIFE



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FUTURE HEALTH PROFESSIONALS
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GLOBAL BUSINESS
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BUSINESS HONORS
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Academic Majors



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FOOD, AGRICULTURAL
& ENVIRONMENTAL SCIENCES
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EXPLORATION
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ENGINEERING HOUSE
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WOMEN IN ENGINEERING
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Interest Area



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INTERNATIONAL HOUSE
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JOHN GLENN CIVIC LEADERSHIP
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VISUAL & PERFORMING ARTS
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ODI Scholars
Learning
Community



Needs Based Upon Year in College



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SOPHOMORE LEARNING & INVOLVEMENT
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Pre-arrival Programs, Welcomes & Orientations

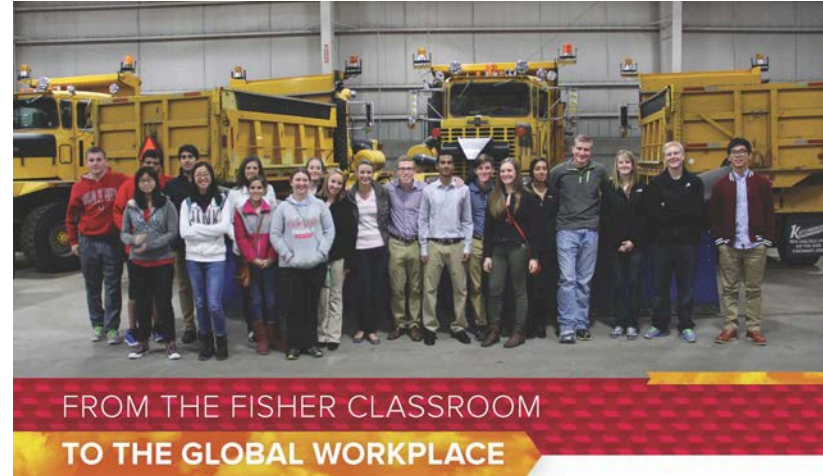
- Setting the tone
- Transition to OSU
- Intensive team and community building
- Setting the stage for the year





Communication and Student Outreach

- Keeping students engaged and motivated
- Creating a unique community experience
- Packaging LC opportunities
- Building LC identity



Global Business Learning Community

Newsletter 141501 &
August Items



Meaningful Learning Opportunities

- Minimum of two LC-focused programs and events per month
- Content designed to help students make connections between their academic interests and life outside of the classroom
- Focus
 - Faculty and alumni engagement
 - Career exploration
 - Leadership development
 - Service opportunities
- Ongoing opportunities for community development





Experiential Learning Opportunities

- Domestic/International Travel
- Courses
- Workshop Series





Capstone or Culminating Events

- Opportunity for reflection about their LC experience
- Celebration of the year's successes and highlights





Benefits of LCs

- Make connections to faculty and staff members that can aid in their future endeavors
- Gain valuable experience and preparation to be a student leader on campus
- Report a greater degree of satisfaction with their overall college experience
- Graduate at a higher rate
- Higher GPAs
- Ease transition of first-year students by providing small, tight-knit communities



Benefits of Learning Community Involvement at OSU

	LC Students	Honors Students	Traditional Students
Student staff member's efforts to get to know you	5.91	5.75	5.59
Student staff member's organizing of programs/activities	5.87	5.63	5.55
Living on campus has enhanced ability to study more effectively	4.66	4.29	4.39
Overall satisfaction with on-campus housing experience	5.12	5.11	5.00
Degree to which living on-campus has enhanced learning experience	4.91	4.64	4.63
If given choice, degree you intend to reside on campus next year	3.91	3.58	3.73



Highlights from the HOME (Housing Outcomes Measurement Evaluation)

	Non-LC Students	FHP	Global Business	FYC
Personal Growth	3.76	4.47	3.79	4.69
Academic Growth	3.37	4.01	3.79	4.12
Opportunity Seeking	3.92	4.63	4.13	4.65
Social Skills	3.84	4.63	4.07	4.95
Wellness	3.77	3.91	4.27	4.85



The Student Voice

“The connections made in the Learning Community have really made my experience as a new freshman easier and more comfortable. I’ve gotten to know the other people in my major very well. Being in the LC was like being a part of a family. We will learn and grow together through our college experiences.”

Jennifer Bacigalupo, Nursing Learning Community

“The Learning Community program places business students on the fast track. The alumni network, networking opportunities, professional workshops, and individualized attention have helped me focus on my goals for this year and the coming years.”

Jennifer Winther, Business Honors Learning Community



Opportunities for Growth and Innovation

- Development of opportunities for enhanced second-year involvement in LCs and connection to STEP
- Sustain and increase faculty and alumni participation in the LCs
- Creation of smoother pipeline for CHANGE students transitioning to main campus who could benefit from LC participation
- Development of new partnerships for LCs without existing partners
- Curricular development and course clustering
- More targeted recruitment of at-risk students who may benefit the most from and LC experience



Questions?

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