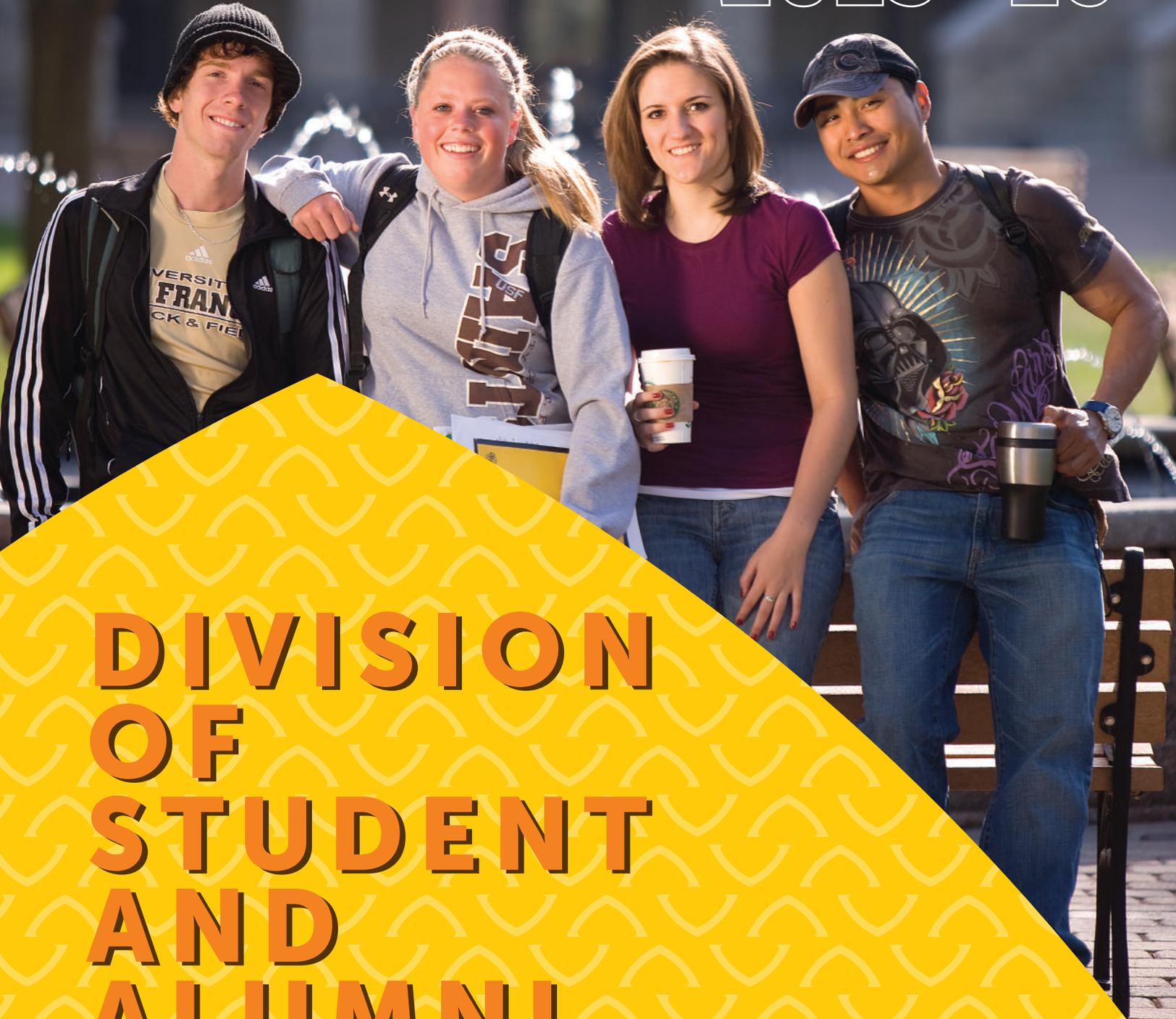


2015-16



**DIVISION  
OF  
STUDENT  
AND  
ALUMNI  
AFFAIRS  
ANNUAL  
REPORT**

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02



**Damon Sloan**  
Vice President of  
Student & Alumni Affairs

Dear USF Community,

The Division of Student & Alumni Affairs performed excellently in 2015–2016, and the following annual report is a summary of those accomplishments. Our focus has been, and will continue to be, providing outstanding experiences for students outside the classroom, examining processes in order to increase student satisfaction and strive for continuous improvement, and providing an ethic of care for our students so that they can reach their full potential. As the division's vice president, I can proudly say that all of our departments work tirelessly to meet these guiding principles on a daily basis.

Our division contributes significantly to the university's overall strategic plan, and the division's plan goes beyond the numbers and assesses program effectiveness on a regular basis. The pages that follow provide more detail behind each department's contributions toward these goals. In a nutshell, persistence and completion of our students continues to be the largest effort from our division, and the past year has shown some success in this area, hitting a seven year high in retention of first year students from fall to fall. Beyond retention, we continue to make strides in increasing residence hall occupancy, maximizing alumni engagement, creating a seamless transition from the student experience to the alumni experience, and maintaining outstanding career placement rates.

If the university represented the human body, we can all agree that academics would represent the brain of the institution, providing knowledge, growth, and critical thinking every day. So what part of the body would Student & Alumni Affairs represent? I think we represent the university's lungs, breathing life into the institution through creative experiential learning, student activities, student organizations, academic and emotional support, career direction, residence hall programming, and outstanding leadership through athletics.

Sometimes, our students need to stop from the busyness of their lives, close their eyes, and take a deep breath. That's where we come in. To help them focus, get centered, and bring oxygen to the brain, where the work gets done.

Enjoy breathing through the annual report.

Best regards,

*Damon M. Sloan*

### Current Learning Outcomes

- 1 Develop a clear plan which is used to navigate towards graduation
- 2 Understand articulation, evaluation of credits and registration process
- 3 Develop a supportive relationship with their advisor
- 4 Understand options for experiential learning
- 5 Understand options for completing a degree through non-traditional means
- 6 Experience a positive relationship with their faculty advisor

### Current Learning Goals

- 1 Students will understand their options for experiential learning (internships, study abroad, May term)
  - Based on USF's advising survey, 82% of respondents strongly agree or agree
- 2 Students will understand their options for completing a degree through non-traditional means (CLEP, DSST, challenge exams or portfolio credit)
  - Based on the Advising Survey, 80% strongly agree or agree

### Interpretation

This particular survey is given to our traditional students, who are not necessarily looking to complete their degree through non-traditional means. The Advising Center is responsible for administering College Level Examination Program (CLEP) testing and the DSST Prometric test, along with guiding students through the portfolio process, should a student believe they possess the knowledge and life skills necessary to complete a course. The prior learning coordinator, who is staffed in our office, maintains all data for prior learning.

### Prior Learning this Year

#### Portfolio submissions

5, 12 credit hours awarded

#### College Level Examination Program (CLEP) testing

16 students tested, 9 passed

#### DSST (formerly DANTES) Prometric testing

12 students tested, 11 passed

#### BSN Fast Track Challenge exams

74 requests, 20 completed successfully

## HIGHLIGHTS

- The Advising Center had 1,958 "touch points" with students—an 8% increase from the 2014–2015 school year.
- In collaboration with Residence Education, Athletics, Financial Aid and the Academic Resource Center, we established a "ground level" retention team for at-risk freshmen and new transfer students.
- We implemented faculty advisor training for 20 faculty advisors for our new "Student Persistence Risk Dashboard." This tool will help the faculty guide conversations with at-risk students and help steer them towards appropriate resources on campus. The hope after this trial run will be to implement this for all academic advisors on campus.

### 2015–2016 Goal Accomplishments

Improved the physical environment of the ARC to become a more welcoming space with new paint and pictures.

Continued improving the awareness of and processes for disability accessibility with new leadership for the Accessibility Committee

- Improved Emotional Support Animal policy
- Worked with Security to increase handicapped parking and begin to establish safe havens
- Established a policy for course substitution

### Improved Trainings

- Awarded CRLA certification for Mentor Training
- Included a segment of faculty directed training per discipline in Tutor Training

### Provided More Effective Use of Support Services

- Improved marketing and signage for Math and Science tutoring
- Realigned Supplemental Instruction (SI) and supports where they are most effective
- Increased SI offerings—Introduction to Statistics and Health Assessment
- Science and writing tutoring was established in the residence halls
- Established an adjunct nurse to work with upper level nursing students
- Part of the NSF Science Grant proposal
- Created a referral form in Maxient

### University Success Scholars Conducted New Activities

- Attire for Hire, with Student Alumni Mentoring, a university-wide fashion show on how to dress for work
- Fundraising \$300 for Heifer Foundation

### ARC by the Numbers

Tutoring/SI/Workshops	2,701 student contacts
Disability Services	208
Academic Coaching & Appointments	1,651 (increase of 525 over previous year)
Programs	509
Total	5,069*

\*Does not include e-contacts

### Departmental Achievements

Support programs (tutoring, SI, coaching) do help students achieve passing and higher grades in classes, thereby retaining more students.

This year saw students who were difficult to motivate (most difficult seen in 40 years of education). If this becomes a trend, supports will need to take new approaches such as required tutoring, paired tutoring or required coaching course.

The numbers of students with disabilities will continue to increase; the types of disabilities will continue to become more diverse and complicated to accommodate.

Academic coaching, on average, does help students improve their study habits, grades and GPAs. However, even with improvement, it is questionable if students with GPAs under 1.0 or even 1.3 should be automatically allowed to continue and go into debt.

Academic Coaching for 300/400 level nursing students need to be handled by those who understand nursing curriculum and thinking like a nurse—that is, nurses. The successful scheduling of coaching for these students can only occur with more cooperation and flexibility from the college.

## Current Learning Outcomes

- 1 Students feel connected to USF alumni
- 2 Parents & families feel connected to USF
- 3 Alumni feel connected to USF

## Professional Development of Director in 2015–2016

- Joliet Chamber's Council for Working Women: Women, Leadership & Mentoring, July
- Webinar: Engaging Alumni through Athletics, July
- Webinar: Strategically Managing Alumni Chapters, July
- Webinar: Commencement: Engaging Students as Future Alumni, September
- Webinar: Communicating with Young Alumni about Giving, November
- Webinar: Implementing an Alumni Engagement Scoring Model, December
- CASE V Conference Chicago, December
- NASPA Conference/Presentation "Alumni Mentoring: Implications for Student Persistence and Alumni Giving", Indianapolis, March

## Student Learning Goals for 2016–2017

### Students feel connected to USF alumni

- Students have more opportunities now than ever before to connect with alumni. They may participate in our Student Alumni Mentoring (SAM) program or Students Today/Alumni Tomorrow (STAT) student club, are able to listen to alumni speak in the classroom or other alumni sponsored events, and may join in on any of the alumni network meetings.
- 40 students participated in the SAM program with a 100% satisfaction rate.
- 151 alumni were connected to students via speakers on campus, as mentors, volunteers, and at reunions and events.

### Parents & families feel connected to USF

- We connect this demographic in a variety of ways. We provide quarterly updates with important university information as well as provide opportunities for parents and families to connect with us at orientation, Homecoming & Reunion Weekend, a spring family event, and by offering our birthday cake program for families to customize for their students that we deliver.
- 34 families participated in the newly established birthday cake program with limited marketing efforts.
- Parent and Family e-newsletter open rate hovers around 50% each edition, which is substantial.
- Although not directly measured, many families attend orientation and Homecoming & Reunion Weekend.

### Alumni feel connected to USF

- We offer dozens of opportunities for alumni to connect with USF through promotion of successful alumni online and via social media, alumni awards, and other leads. We advertise a bi-annual



alumni "Saints Connection" e-newsletter as well as monthly events/programs emails. We promote the affinity with regular social media updates and invited alumni to join us for alumni events and to participate in one of our several alumni programs. We give them opportunities to connect with each other professionally and personally through our alumni networks and events. Additionally, we engage alumni through non-event programming regardless of location with our alumni success stories, Dinner with Saints, pictorial calendar, Saints Sweethearts, teacher request form, and alumni benefits.

- 428 mass communications were sent to alumni via email and social media.
- Alumni Saints Connection e-newsletter open rate has been on the rise now, hovering around 30%, which is substantial compared to our peers.
- When alumni attend events, 79% believe they feel connected to USF based on survey data.
- Alumni engagement numbers have been steadily on the rise over the years. We saw a slight dip this year due to a significant cut in alumni events. But, we made up most of these numbers with alternative methods of engagement programs such as the pictorial calendar, etc.



FY 2010	886	FY 2014	4,284
FY 2011	2,006	FY 2015	4,934
FY 2012	2,171	FY 2016	4,518*
FY 2013	3,019	*Reflective of reduction of alumni events by request	

- Our Alumni Board Survey indicated that 61% of members "strongly agreed" that because of their participation on the Alumni Board, they felt strongly connected to USF. The remaining 39% selected "agreed."

## BY THE NUMBERS

# 47,000 ALUMNI

50 STATES / 14 COUNTRIES

### 21 Established Alumni Networks

Alumni networks are groups of alumni that come together with a common interest based on location, major, career, ethnicity, etc. [stfrancis.edu/alumni/networks](http://stfrancis.edu/alumni/networks)

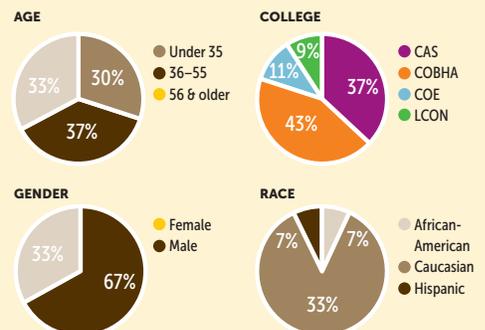
### 24 Available Alumni Benefits

Includes an alumni portal, Joliet Slammers & Six Flags discounts, email 4 life, & more! [stfrancis.edu/alumni/benefits](http://stfrancis.edu/alumni/benefits)

#### FOCUSED ON PROGRAMMING AND ENGAGEMENT

- Increased alumni & friends engagement by over 200% over the last 7 years
- Featured 15 Saints Sweetheart couples
- Increased Alumni Facebook page "likes" by over 30%
- Created Instagram account, @StFrancisAlumni
- Launched teacher request form
- Designed & sold 100 USF pictorial calendars
- 38 Student Alumni Mentor (SAM) matches
- Contracted new email system in order to communicate more effectively
- Honored 50th Reunion Class at Commencement
- Launched Alumni Speakers Bureau

#### ALUMNI BOARD OF DIRECTORS / 30 MEMBERS



### 6 Committees

Constitution / Engagement / Nominating / Scholarship / Homecoming & Reunion / Young Alumni & Students

### 100% Support

of the Francis Scholarship Fund contributing almost \$15,000





The Athletic Department moved into the 2015–16 academic year slated to have a new record number of student-athletes with 410 currently registered, surpassing last year's mark of 408. It also achieved a record 3.17 cumulative grade point average for all student-athletes for both the fall 2015 and spring 2016 semesters.

Four Saints coaches/administrators were honored over the summer with Dave Hilbert being named the Chicagoland Collegiate Athletic Conference (CCAC) Sports Information Director of the Year, Art Campos being honored as the CCAC Athletic Trainer of the Year and Brian Michalak claiming CCAC Baseball Coach of the Year recognition. USF head men's basketball coach Ryan Marks also received the 2015 Jack Bennett Award at the ColleagueInsider.com awards banquet. The award is presented annually to a non-NCAA Division I head coach who achieves success on the basketball court, while displaying great moral integrity off the court.

USF's men's and women's cross country programs again fared well at the NAIA National Championships with the men placing fourth in the nation and the women No. 18. The men's cross country team also brought home a conference championship as did the football program. Men's cross country coach Jeff Barker was named the conference coach of the year, while head football coach Joe Curry brought home the same distinction on the gridiron. Assistant football coach Tom Sallay was also recognized as the league's assistant coach

of the year. USF junior defensive end Tim Smith claimed top defensive honors in the league this past fall when he was named the Mid-States Football Association—Midwest League Player of the Year. Smith was also recognized later as a NAIA Second Team All-American. Other top award winners from the fall were cross country runner Brian Blaylock (NAIA All-American) and volleyball player Alyssa Bridleman (AVCA All-Mideast Region). Final NAIA fall rankings include the football team ranked No. 19 nationally.

Better than \$22,000 was raised at the 39th Annual Brown & Gold Night, which featured Chicago Cubs General Manager Jed Hoyer.

## A Year in Numbers

37 NAIA Scholar-Athletes

108 Academic All-Conference Selections

16 of 19 NAIA Scholar Teams

1 Capital One Academic All-American

31 NAIA All-Americans

74 All-Conference Selections

3 Conference Players/Runners of the Year

1 Conference Freshman of the Year

6 NAIA National Players of the Week

40 Conference Players of the Week

9 of 21 teams advanced to the NAIA National Tournament

Placed 37th in the NAIA Directors Cup Standings



**Experience, Connections,  
Employment**

University of St Francis Career Success Center aligns our goals, projects, and outcomes around creating better experiences, connections, and employment opportunities for the students.

**Experiences**

- Our internship specialist, Betty Kohl, logged 103 participants in experiential learning opportunities.
- Students' success is the ultimate goal of the center, and in order to help create a promising college career, we administered the Strong Interest Assessment to 175 students and discussed major possibilities with them.

**Employment**

- Our internship specialist, Betty Kohl, facilitated the posting of 1,016 full-time and 221 part-time positions to our job board, which is restricted access to St. Francis students and alumni only.
- 76 employers recruited on our campus.
- 311 university-employed student workers on and off campus

**Connections**

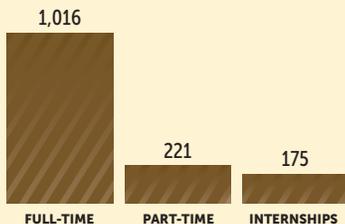
- The Career Success Center interacted with over 1,475 students last year and a survey asking them about their experience was sent as well. Ninety-nine percent of students surveyed were satisfied with their visit to the Career Success Center.
- The center created over 185 new employer contacts that will benefit our students' job outlook.
- The center is available to all students and alumni and as a proactive measure to reach more students, the Center has committed to working with faculty and student groups to provide presentations. Presentations include using Optimal Resume, Managing Your Social Media, Workplace Expectations and LinkedIn Best Practices.
- 20 career-related presentations were conducted throughout the university last year.

**BY THE NUMBERS**

1,412

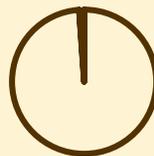
Total number of internship & job leads posted for students and alumni

BREAKDOWN OF LEADS POSTED ON JOB BOARDS



1,475

Total number of students and alumni who interacted with Career Success Center



99%

Percentage of students who were satisfied with their visit to the Center



175

Number of students who took the Strong Interest Assessment to help choose an academic major



311

University-employed student workers on and off campus

103

Students placed in internships

20

Career-related presentations

76

Employers recruiting on campus

185

New employer contacts

## 2015–2016 Learning Outcomes

### Client Satisfaction

A client satisfaction survey was administered during the academic year with a total of 60 respondents. Several clients elected to continue their counseling services. The results of the survey show the Counseling Center (CC) was successful in its overall mission of providing counseling assistance to the USF community.

CC plays an intricate role in student retention. The clients who completed the satisfaction survey were asked about their intent of leaving USF. 86.7% of respondents confirmed that counseling services did aid in their decision to remain at USF.

### OGSM

This year CC elected to focus on practical competence. The CC recorded 1,337 visits. Our outcome statements are as follows:

- 1 USF community displays new behaviors that focus on wellness.
- 2 Students utilize information gained from seminars, groups, and sessions to form new thinking patterns.
- 3 Students become motivated to work on their personal and academic goals.
- 4 Students continue to learn new information and behaviors to challenge their personal growth.

CC measured the effectiveness of clinical interventions by offering a pre-/post-survey for groups and presentations. Individual services were provided with a satisfaction survey. The results demonstrated success. The 306 unique new clients and the 80 returning clients reported having acquired skills, techniques and knowledge to address their personal and academic challenges.

The success is evident via direct and indirect measures. As stated previously, there was a 86.7% retention rate reported by clients who completed their counseling services.

### Student Learning Goals for 2016–2017

- 1 The number of students that engage in individual and/or group counseling and compliant with treatment plan
- 2 CCAPS-62 assessment measuring overall stressors will demonstrate a decrease from the base measure
- 3 Student self-report of strengthened academic skillsets associated with elected major
- 4 Increase students understanding of critical thinking skills

### Professional Development of Director in 2015–2016

April 24, 2015: Gateway Foundation presentation regarding substance abuse

August 13 & 14, 2015: Anger Management Certification

September 23, 2015: UC4 Training

October 2, 2015: Site Supervisor Training at Chicago School

October 16, 2015: Proven Couples Therapy Interventions: Broaden Your Skills and Repair Relationships

October 23, 2015: Suicide & Self-Mutilation: Stopping the Pain

February 26, 2016: Psychotropic Medications

March 18, 2016: EMDR & Mindfulness: Interventions for Anxiety, Depression, Panic, Trauma, and Other Disorders

March 23, 2016-Mental Health Emergencies: Breakthrough Strategies for Crisis Intervention

March 29, 2016-Nutritional and Integrative Interventions for Mental Health Disorders: Non-Pharmaceutical Intervention

September 30, 2016-Ethical Dilemmas and Decision Making in Behavioral Health: How to Practice in a Safe and Ethical Way

October 7, 2016-Internal Family Systems Therapy (IFS): A Revolutionary & Transformative Treatment of PTSD and Anxiety

### **Current Learning Outcomes**

- 1** Collectively create a welcoming and diverse USF community
- 2** Build meaningful relationships while creating an interdependent support system
- 3** Demonstrate respect for differences and civic responsibility as a part of a global society
- 4** Integrate learning, knowledge, ideas and experiences to create self-understanding and personal growth

### **Student Learning Goals for 2016–2017**

In 2016–2017 Residence Education and Student Life will be using the new Continuous Quality improvement format to collect data on all of our current learning outcomes. Specific data points include:

- 1** Increase % of Joliet campus students engaged through SGA and student clubs
- 2** Increase in the number of persistent students
- 3** Build participation in diversity-focused clubs
- 4** Increase positive participation in current communities

### **Professional Development of Director in 2014–2015**

- Attendance at GLACUHO Annual Conference, (November 2015)
- Served on GLACUHO Executive Board and Programming and Development Chair

### **Overall Report**

In 2015–2016, Residence Education took a closer look at how to support resident student learning. Specifically, we began the Faculty Fellows program. In 2015–2016 Lisa Hedrick, Brian Moskalik and Amy Schroeder served as faculty fellows for Marian Hall. In this role they worked to build relationships with students. Research has shown that the more contact that occurs between faculty and students both inside and outside the classroom, the more likely students are to develop in college and to be satisfied with their college experience (Astin, 1993). Student development and satisfaction are in direct accordance with Objective 3 and student retention.

Faculty Fellows are designated to interact with students in a specific residence hall floor in Marian, but do not live on campus. They provide an academic presence in the residence hall by assisting residential communities with educational and social programming related to their academic discipline, personal interests and expertise. At the end of the academic year a majority of residents knew about the faculty fellows program. Also, our first year students had overall higher term and cumulative GPAs during this year. This can also be attributed to a focus on hosting regular tutoring in the residence halls of which 72% of residents indicated they were slightly or very aware of and 36.5% of residents indicated they participated in tutoring.

The area of Student Engagement and Leadership has joined with Residence Education to become Student Life for the 2016–2017 academic year. The new joined areas are excited to continue the great work both departments have been known for in the past.

In 2015–2016, Student Engagement and Leadership led many events. Relay for Life was held at USF at the end of the spring semester for our students. Around 100 students and employees participated and 12 teams raised more than \$7,300, surpassing our \$5,000 goal. There were over 200 people who attended the event. Throughout the academic year in partnership with Core 1 faculty, we were able to coordinate 133 educational passport events with 533 students attending. The Office of Student Engagement & Leadership provided 94 events, with over 7,852 students participating in the events throughout the year. Student Engagement and Leadership assisted with programs for the Culture Van and Diversity programming. Eight programs were held and over 200 students attended. This past fall, 36 Student Government-sponsored clubs submitted their end-of-semester report. These clubs hosted 268 programs, which in total boast attendance of over 13,200 people. In the area of Greek life, Alpha Phi recruited seven new members during their spring Rush week. As these two departments come together, we are excited for their work to better capture the learning happening among student leaders and the ways student engagement supports student retention.





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