The Neighborhood Model: Supporting Student Success through Departmental Partnerships

Larry D Long, Michigan State University
Kristen Renn, Michigan State University

Available at: https://works.bepress.com/lldlong/40/
The Neighborhood Model
Supporting Student Success through Departmental Partnerships

Kristen Renn, PhD
Associate Dean for Student Success Initiatives
renn@msu.edu, @KrisRenn

Larry Long
Management Analyst
ldlong@msu.edu, @LongLarryD

Sponsored by the Commission for Housing and Residential Life
Slides available at: works.bepress.com/ldlong/40/
MSU Pre-Neighborhoods

Academic Services

Student Services

Housing
Typical Services across Campuses

- Academic Advising
- Residence Hall
- Tutoring
- Math Help Room
- Writing Center
- Disability Services
- Health Clinic
Students might feel bounced around campus
1.6 miles
Introduction to the Neighborhood Model

Neighborhoods Video
http://neighborhoods.msue.edu/
What is a Neighborhood?

A Spartan Neighborhood is a cluster of adjacent residence halls where:

- Students from different backgrounds, with different academic interests live
- There are on site resources to promote healthy living
- There is an Engagement Center to support academic success
- There are peers, graduate students, and professional staff to answer questions
- There are expanded opportunities for student leadership
- **Neighborhood vision:**
  “Every MSU undergraduate student should be part of a neighborhood where support for learning and engagement, personal development, healthy living, leadership and the opportunity to participate as a member of an inclusive community is provided.”

- **Neighborhood Pillars:**
  Academic Support, Intercultural Engagement, Health and Wellness, and Residential Support
Neighborhood Goals

Scale down the size of the University

Place key resources and support services in closer proximity

Create a better “safety net”

Rethink the way units work with each other
What is an Engagement Center?

The place...

- at the heart of the neighborhood
- to find the services and programs that lead to success
- where common goals are accomplished through a team approach
- where peer, graduate and professional staff come together to meet the needs of students
- for meeting, gathering, connecting, seeing and being seen
Neighborhood Aspects

Students

- Programs/Services
- Analytics
- Symbolic
Programs and Services

- Health Clinics
- Academic Advising
- Fitness Classes
- Career Services
- Writing Centers
- Tutoring

- Math Help Rooms
- Dining Halls & Snack Shops
- Disability Services
- Classrooms
- Computer Stations
Symbolic

- Breaking down silos
- Matrix organization
- Presidential priority
- Supports the university strategic plan
- Bundling of residential research university functions
Assessment

- What aspects of the Neighborhoods have the greatest impact?
- What factors lead to student use of Neighborhood resources, services, and programs?
- What types of interventions have the greatest positive impact on student academic success?
- What types of students are helped the most by the Neighborhoods?
Changes in Risk Rating

End of fall risk

- High: 16%
- Moderate: 59%
- Low: 76%

Post-survey risk

- High: 77%
- Moderate: 85%
- Low: 92%

Pre-survey risk

- High: 16%
- Moderate: 35%
- Low: 20%
What’s going well?

- Building a campus culture around the Neighborhoods
- Establishing new partnerships
- Increasing students’ use of services
What are we refining?

- Deepening connection to academics
- Getting more constituents on-board
- Sustainable funding and practices
What we’ve learned?

- Identifying and engaging with students with academic or socio-emotional challenges works
- Use simple naming systems
- Referrals and cross-training
- Learning to tell our story better
- The type of student served varies by location
Questions about MSU’s approach?

How are you bringing resources to YOUR students?
How do you know if it is working?
Reflection

- Who are your potential partners?
  - Partners for immediate support
  - Stretch goal partners

- What are your opportunities/barriers?
  - Space and resources
  - Tradition
  - Silos/Hierarchy
The Neighborhood Model
Supporting Student Success through Departmental Partnerships

Thank you for coming!

Kristen Renn, PhD
Associate Dean for Student Success Initiatives
renn@msu.edu, @KrisRenn

Larry Long
Management Analyst
ldlong@msu.edu, @LongLarryD

Sponsored by the Commission for Housing and Residential Life
Slides available at: works.bepress.com/ldlong/40/