Graduate Students and Families Yearn for Community Too: Understanding the needs of graduate students and students with families

December 17, 2018

HDH CONNECT Team: Essma Eweida, Brandon Chulaluxsiriboone, Salome Miclette, Nikki Robledo De La Torre, and Anthony Keen-Louie
WELCOME!
What is HDH CONNECT?

- Purpose: programming, student conduct, and assessment for graduate students and students with families (also faculty and staff)
- Founding
- Structure
- Program Model
CONNECT Model & Outline

- Our communities
- Assessment
- Putting assessment to work
WHO DO WE SERVE?

TOTAL: 4,941

- Grad: 3,036
- Spouse/Partner: 1,402
- Staff/Faculty: 359
- Undergrad: 144

GRAD STUDENTS 62%
WHERE DO THEY LIVE?

- Mesa Nueva
- Mesa
- OMS
- Rita
- SGA
- Coast
- LJDS
WHERE DO THEY LIVE?

- Mesa Nueva
- Mesa
- OMS
- Rita
- SGA
- Coast
- LJDS
Communities

Mesa Nueva

- Opened August 2017
- Includes a pub, pool, splash zone, outdoor lounges, and fitness room, and gym

Mesa

- 390 apartments in a park-like setting
- Include community rooms, laundry facilities, garden plots, and playgrounds
COMMUNITIES

OMS

- 403 two-bedroom apartments
- Includes a lounge, central mailroom, laundry rooms and meeting spaces

Rita

- 225 two-bedroom apartments
- Located on the southwest corner of the health sciences neighborhood
COMMUNITIES

**SGA**
- 25 four single bedroom apartments
- Includes laundry and community rooms

**Coast**
- 106 unfurnished apartments
- Located within walking distance to campus, the beach, and UC San Diego transportation
LJDS

- 380 unfurnished one, and two-bedroom apartments
- Includes two pools and spas, tennis courts, and a fitness facility
GROWTH PLAN FOR GFH

• No more SGA
• Rita transforming to undergrad only
• Nuevo West & Nuevo East opening Fall 2020
• Improved outdoor spaces starting with OMS

WHY?

Spaces create communities
ASSESSING OUR COMMUNITIES

• Programming and Community Development Surveys: Emailed surveys twice/year
  • Average of 902 responses/survey (20% of our population)
  • Primarily quantitative
• Field Surveys 3 times/year
  • Conducted in CA programs (fall), Snow Day Marquee Event (winter) and door to door or tabling (spring)
  • Primarily qualitative
  • 195-229 responses
• Programming Assessment
• Data from conduct statistics and conversations
ASSESSMENT FINDINGS & IMPLICATIONS

• Residents consistently report they want to meet one another, but say that they don’t always know how:
  • “It is difficult to meet someone else unless you have arrived with someone else. While I know it is easier said than done, it would be nice to have somewhat of a structure or a process that helps meet others.” (Spring 2018 Programming and Community Development Survey)
  • Residents are meeting one another through programs and are requesting more programs

Approximately how many people have you met as a result of attending programs? (Spring 2018 Field Survey)

- 1 to 5: 40%
- 6 to 10: 10%
- 10+: 18%
- N/A*: 32%
ASSESSMENT FINDINGS & IMPLICATIONS

- Residents consistently feel like they don’t have enough time to do everything they want/need to do

- “My schedule [keeps me from attending events], I work two jobs and am a full time graduate student. Unfortunately I have very little time for anything that isn't directly related to my schooling.” (Spring 2018 Programming and Community Development Survey)

- Graduate students with families have differing needs than those without children
• Graduate students need support managing stress

• Residents consistently ask for more food at events
PUTTING ASSESSMENT TO WORK

• Adjustments based on Fall 2017 survey
  • Planned more events on nights and weekends
  • Increased cultural events
• On Spring 2018 survey satisfaction increased by 10%
• Adjustment after both Spring 2018 surveys
  • Increased number of programs per community
  • Change area of focus from “Creating Community” to “Creating a Sense of Belonging”
PUTTING ASSESSMENT TO WORK

• Great partnership with CAPS
• Allow for “drop-ins” at events
• The sense of community could be increased by providing:
  • More common areas in the housing communities
  • More programs
  • Programs that specifically address how to meet others.
What’s next?

- Sharing data and connecting with colleagues both inside UCSD and nationally.
- NASPA Annual 2019
QUESTIONS?