

# Living Learning Community (LLC) Program Overview

## Fall 2008 – Spring 2009

We are excited to announce the opportunity to develop a new Living Learning Community (LLC) for the 2008-2009 academic year. This unique program is offered to incoming FAU freshmen and serves to create small cohorts of students who share common interests, goals, majors, or lifestyles. These shared experiences are translated into cooperative and integrative learning both inside the classroom (through linked coursework) and outside of the classroom (through specialized co-curricular activities and a shared living environment).

The purpose of the FAU Living Learning Community program is to:

- Build partnerships among faculty, staff, and first-year students to increase learning through interaction and involvement inside and outside the classroom
- Connect the curricular and co-curricular experiences of students to create a seamless learning experience
- Facilitate college transitions by fostering smaller communities of students, faculty, and staff as the University grows
- Establish students with a comprehensive support network to ensure their success as an FAU freshman
- Provide students with co-curricular experiences that advance their opportunities to become an actively engaged student

### What do FAU Living Learning Communities look like?

When a group of FAU faculty and/or staff submit a LLC proposal, they become the Committee representatives for that community. The team from the Retention Office will work closely with each Committee to ensure that the structure and components of their LLC (including housing assignments, co-curricular opportunities, and coursework) are intentional in creating a positive environment for students to live, learn, and achieve academic success.

Faculty and staff in the FAU community are encouraged to submit a proposal for consideration in the LLC program at FAU. The 3 main components that every LLC must include for the 2008-2009 academic year are:

- (1) A common academic schedule - that includes (i) SLS1503 (or equivalent), and (ii) a minimum of one other 2+ credit course (as selected by the LLC Committee)
- (2) A Committee member that will teach the LLCs section(s) of SLS1503 (appropriate compensation for teaching this 1 credit course will be provided by the Office for Student Retention if it is not taught as part of a faculty member's regular load)
- (3) A minimum of one co-curricular event that specifically enhances the LLC students' experience per month

As a reference point, successful LLC events should be based on the needs and requests of LLC students and in the past LLC Committees have:

- Organized a Fall Retreat to facilitate the group experience for students
- Arranged out of class discussions, workshops, guest speakers/mentors, and field-trips
- Eaten meals in the Centre Market Place with LLC students
- Created incentive programs from campus involvement
- Held office hours and/or study reviews in the residence halls

In addition to these LLC Specific programs, LLC students will also attend one 1-hour "All LLC" event each month (as planned by the LLC Coordinator) and will also receive additional social and educational programming offered by their Resident Assistants.

In order for a student to participate in an FAU LLC, they must be fully admitted to the university for the Fall 2008 semester and must submit a Housing Contract indicating a preference of living in Heritage Park Towers North.

### **What are the Benefits/Outcomes of LLC programs?**

- National research has shown that participation in an LLC positively impacts students' academic performance and overall retention (when compared to non-LLC students)
- Many Colleges/Academic Departments use the LLC as a means to recruit the best and brightest students into their major(s). Students are attracted to the special opportunity to connect with academic staff and faculty
- With an LLC, faculty and staff may offer new and innovative programs to their captive population (internships, research assistants or participants)
- LLCs can ensure that students establish strong connections and commitments to their College or major
- LLCs help facilitate the transition of students into the FAU community, providing them with a solid foundation for academic success in future semesters
- Faculty have greater opportunities to form mentor relationships with students that are actively engaged and captive to their experiences
- LLC students have a higher appreciation for diversity, more advanced critical thinking abilities, a stronger commitment to civic engagement.

### **Additional Resources for Planning Your LLC Proposal**

Living learning community programs are being offered across America; please refer to the following resources to learn more about the possibilities, opportunities, and possible aspects of your LLC!

FAU's LLC website:

[www.fau.edu/retention/LLCSteering.php](http://www.fau.edu/retention/LLCSteering.php)

Annotated Bibliography on Living/Learning Communities:

<http://www.acuho.ohio-state.edu/resource%20center/Living-Learning.html>

Residential Learning Communities International Clearinghouse:

<http://pcc.bgsu.edu/rlcch/index.php>

If you want more information or are interested in submitting a proposal for an LLC for 2008-2009, please contact Alana Barnes at 7-3103, [abarne18@fau.edu](mailto:abarne18@fau.edu), or visit our website: [www.fau.edu/retention/LLCSteering.php](http://www.fau.edu/retention/LLCSteering.php).

The deadline for submission of proposals is **Thursday November 1, 2007.**