Students Learning through Engagement and Involvement
Dear Reader,
The Division of Student Affairs at the University of Memphis believes in “Students Learning through Engagement and Involvement.” We use this motto as a cornerstone for all that we do – from Adult and Commuter Student Services to the University Center. Students learn through their experiences with people, through community service, through workshops and counseling sessions, and through exercise and recreation. We used the idea of student learning as a foundation for our strategic plan.

We have a vision for what we want for students through their interactions with Student Affairs. We want them to be able to understand and manage themselves, to engage with others in a diverse world, and to succeed as professionals. We developed division-wide student learning objectives within each of these categories. Then we began the process of creating a strategic plan to ensure that we deliver on this vision. That strategic planning is being built on this foundational vision.

This report debuts our vision for students and provides examples of how our programs and services fit within this vision of students learning through engagement and involvement.

Sincerely,
Rosie Phillips Bingham, Ph.D.
Vice President for Student Affairs

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Understanding and Managing Self

Student Affairs promotes the development of students into independent, responsible individuals. We provide the resources for students to enhance their physical, psychological and spiritual well-being. Traditionally-aged students learn about themselves separate from their families, while adult students develop as learners, taking on new challenges and interacting with new ideas.

As a result of their interactions with Student Affairs, students better understand their personality, values, interests and aptitudes.

- The Student Health Educator, ten graduate assistants and undergraduate Peer Health Educators reached approximately 20,000 students through 105 programs, including the Student Health Fair, attended by approximately 5,000 students and 60 exhibitors.
- 72% of the 200 residential students participating in an academic goal setting workshop reached their academic goals at the end of the year. These students indicated that living on campus had a positive impact on their studying.
- Judicial and Ethical Programs promoted academic and personal integrity to over 3,000 students through presentations at New Student Orientation, ACAD 1100 Classes, the student handbook and other outreach initiatives.
- Nearly 70% of full-time students visited the Recreation Center one or more times during the Spring 2009 semester.
- At the Off-Campus Housing Information Fair, 602 students learned how to effectively search for an apartment. The Understanding Lease Agreements seminar helped students engage in conversations with leasing representatives.

“I learned that my integrity is my reputation — being honest helps build and maintain positive relationships with others.”
- University Center employee

“If there’s something you care about a lot, you can make a difference.”
- LeaderShape participant

“Being on the Lead Team is helping me with speaking in front of crowds. I have also gained the tools and knowledge to further build myself as a leader.”
- Lead Team member
Living well together in a diverse society is a major focus of Student Affairs. Living well means being connected — to the University, to a community, and to society at large. In order to connect with others, Student Affairs fosters in students an understanding of, respect for, and ability to interact with people from all cultures and ethnic groups. By becoming engaging citizens, locally and globally, our students develop effective social change skills.

Below are just a few of the opportunities offered through Student Affairs that led our students to engage others in a diverse world.

• More than 500 volunteers took notes for disabled students throughout the year, coordinated through Student Disability Services.

• The first African American students to attend the University of Memphis — “The Memphis State Eight” were honored with the Arthur F. Holman Lifetime Achievement Award in front of a packed audience in the Rose Theatre. An exclusive luncheon the following day, 250 selective students gained a deeper respect for their educational opportunities while demonstrating appreciation for these pioneers.

• Students and staff donated 405 hours of community service through the Alternative Spring Break program in St. Louis.

• In the 6th Annual “Why Do You Hate Me Week,” hosted by the Student Activities Council (SAC), students experienced the “Tunnel of Oppression”, saw a Hello, My Name is Hispanic” photography display, and heard from Brent Scarpo, filmmaker. The week culminated in 500 students tearing down the “Writing on the Wall” project, a cinder-block wall painted with words and phrases that separate our society.

• $161,000 was raised by Up Till Dawn for St. Jude’s Children’s Research Hospital.

“People are different in ways other than race, religion, and gender. Taking the time to appreciate others is worth it!”

— Student Activities Council member

“Every person is different. I have learned to say ‘ok, this is how I feel. How do you feel? Can you see where I’m coming from?’”

— Student Activities Council member
Succeeding as a Professional

Student Affairs provides students with opportunities to apply academic and co-curricular content to real-world contexts through experiential learning.

The Division supports students in their process of identifying, developing and articulating the competencies necessary for them to succeed in their chosen field. As a result of their interaction with Student Affairs, students understand the concept of professional identity and develop appropriate professional behaviors. Beyond that, Student Affairs at the University of Memphis allows students to hone their leadership skills—indeed, the Division is striving to be the best in the world at developing leaders who can help us all live well together in a diverse society.

These outcomes are reached through programs such as:

- With the help of Career Services, 4,926 student completed internships

- Educational Support Program (ESP)’s Learning Centers experienced an increase of 2,265 student contacts over the previous year, for a total of 15,073 contacts by 3,087 students.

- Participants in the second LeaderShape Institute reported that the experience greatly impacted them in a positive way, that they felt prepared to take their vision and produce tangible exceptional results in the next twelve months, and they felt confident and capable to lead with integrity.

- One hundred eighty-five students applied to be Emerging Leaders. These students hailed from 80 high schools in 39 counties and 10 different states. Fifty exceptional students were selected to join this selectees program which currently counts 135 members.

- Through the help of the Minority Affairs Office, 41 students attended the Southwestern Black Student Leadership Conference held at Texas A&M University.

- The Zeta Omegas chapter of Kappa Delta sorority became a Merit Chapter, awarded to the top 10% of Kappa Delta chapters across the country.

- TRIO students attended a dinner and workshop on preparing for graduate school, hosted by the U of M Graduate School.

- For the first time, the U of M sent 18 Greek leaders to the Mid-American Greek Council Association Conference in St. Louis.

“I learned that one person is not capable of handling everything. People have different strengths which helps the team to be more well-rounded.”

- Student Activities Council member

“Interning with the Rock the Vote in Washington, D.C., during the 2008 Presidential Election, was the opportunity of a lifetime. Upon graduation, I am confident the knowledge and experience I gained during my internship will be a valuable asset to any employer.”

- Student Intern

“The Emerging Leaders Program connects leadership with every aspect of life. The most important thing that I have learned is how intentional leadership can create success for you and your organization.”

- Emerging Leader
Retention rates:
Interfraternity Council 85%
National Pan-Hellenic Council 94%
Panhellenic Council 97%
All Greek Community 91%

Emerging Leaders Retention Rates
Year Student Entered Program 2004 2005 2006 2007 2008
Number Beginning Program 19 23 23 33 45
Number Enrolled After 1st Year 17 23 21 29 43
Retention Rate 89.5% 100% 91.3% 87.9% 95.5%

The preeminent goal of Student Affairs is to assist students in their persistence toward a degree. All that we do, whether it is a leadership program, counseling, tutoring, or recreation, serves to keep students engaged with their academic pursuits. Toward that end, in 2008-09 the following programs are highlighted: Ninety-two percent of the 75 FRESH Peer Mentor Program for incoming African American students were retained from the fall to the spring semester.

82% of the students who have utilized psychological counseling for six or more sessions have persisted in their pursuit of a degree.
Students who are engaged and involved on campus are much more likely to succeed in college and graduate.

Your gift will foster student learning through engagement and involvement by underwriting scholarships and programs and by supporting our new University Center, the heart of student life at the U of M.

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