Enrollment Management and Student Affairs News Report

Tuesday, July 31, 2012

At a Glance

Daily Campus Visits
During this five-hour visit, participants (including family members) attend an admissions session, take a student-led tour, meet with a university representative in their academic area of interest, and enjoy a complimentary lunch.

Discover NAU
This full-day visit includes an information fair, student Q&A panel, time to meet with academic representatives, a complimentary lunch, a campus and residence hall tour, and time for information sessions on topics such as financial aid, housing, the Honors Program, and applying to the university.

Introduction
To inform colleagues about EMSA’s contributions to the success of the university and its students, and how EMSA’s efforts align with university goals

Relevant University Goal
#3 Vibrant Sustainable Community: Elevate the environmental, economic, social, and cultural vitality of our communities

STRATEGIES
a. Support a vibrant community of scholars
b. Enhance administrative infrastructure to support research activities
c. Enhance sponsored research administration
d. Be a model of environmentally responsible and sustainable operations and education

Emsa Student in the Spotlight—Udall Scholarship Recipient
Kiersten Wilber, Community Mentor for eCo House and Environmental Sciences-Biology Major
Widely regarded as the nation’s leading scholarship for environmental or sustainability undergraduates, The Morris and Stewart Udall Foundation scholarship is awarded to roughly 10% of over 500 applicants from around the country.
This year, an NAU student, for only the second time in the 20 year history of the award, has been selected. Kiersten Wilber, a junior in environmental sciences–biology emphasis joins 67 other environmental scholars from across the US.

Highlight
Residence Life
Residence Life is a leader in sustainability efforts on campus, as evidenced by the office having received the university’s 2012 Campus Sustainability Award for Campus Organization.
For more information about additional 2012 Campus Sustainability Awards to faculty, staff, and students, please visit: http://www2.nau.edu/green-p/

Campus Organization
Residence Life and Dr. Richard Payne
Residence Life has quietly been at the forefront of enhancing the culture of sustainability on the campus for many years. Dr. Payne has the ability and desire to achieve pragmatic solutions to environmental challenges, provide learning opportunities, and model sustainable practices.
Residence Life’s Commitment to Sustainability: Facilities, Education, & Community

**Sustainable Facility Initiatives**
Residence Life sustainability efforts related to facilities include:

- Upgraded windows to dual pane, energy efficient units
- Recycled 14,000 pounds of glass and aluminum from old windows as part of a construction landfill diversion plan
- Provided residence halls with over 3,000 recycling bins for students use
- De-lamped spaces in traditional housing halls by removing one-third of hallway fluorescent bulbs
- Spent over $650,000 in asbestos abatement and removal from an astonishing 400,000+ square feet of living area
- Diverted 15,000–20,000 pounds of waste to recycling at move-out
- Converted to Energy Star approved appliances throughout the department
- Upgraded fluorescent fixtures to LEDs or compact fluorescents as standard practice
- Installed power strip shutoffs in many residence hall rooms to limit vampire electricity use
- Replaced standard urinals with waterless versions
- Provided bike lockers, storage areas, and bike racks to facilitate bike travel across the campus

**Sustainability Education Efforts**
The EcoRA (Residence Assistant) Program trains four Resident Assistants to educate students on sustainability topics: recycling and waste reduction, energy conservation, water conservation, transportation, food systems, climate change, and conscious consumerism. EcoRAs provide education in a variety of ways including programs, newsletters, and bulletin boards.

The No Impact Jack Sustainable Living Certificate program is designed to promote behavior change and raise awareness about how to live sustainably in the residence halls. Participating students share their current sustainable behaviors and recently identified two new activities related to: Energy, Water, Transportation, The Three R’s (Reduce, Reuse, and Recycle), Food, Laundry, or Campus Action. Students earn points as they implement behaviors and, in recognition of their efforts, receive a certificate that is posted on their residence hall room door. More than two hundred people earned certificates in AY 11-12 and in surveys most often cited “holding myself accountable” as the reason for participating in No Impact Jack.

Of the 565 residents who participated in an end-of-year evaluation for EcoRA and No Impact Jack, most reported having seen an environmental/sustainability-themed bulletin board (81%) or poster (58%) in their hall. Smaller portions of residents reported having participated in an environmental/sustainability-themed event (27%) or similarly themed face-to-face conversation (17%) initiated by hall staff.

EcoRA and No Impact Jack were funded through a Hooper Sustainability Grant awarded to Cori Cusker, graduate student in the Sustainability Communities Master’s program. Cusker is collecting data on the projects over two years for her thesis research. Residence Life will support the continuation of the programs beyond the term of the grant.

**Community Partnerships**

In an effort to reduce the volume of items taken to the landfill and to benefit local social service agencies, the Office of Residence Life partnered with Big Brothers Big Sisters of Flagstaff and St. Mary’s Food Bank Alliance in the annual “Leave Green” program at the end of spring semester 2012. The two agencies were selected through a competitive application process to receive gently used items and non-perishable food from residential students as they moved out. This year over 21,000 pounds of clothes, 6,600 pounds of miscellaneous items, and 456 pieces of furniture were transported to Savers, which in turn pays Big Brothers Big Sisters for the donations. The effort raised nearly $7,000 for the local nonprofit organization. St. Mary’s Food Bank Alliance received 3,276 pounds of food that will be distributed to local families and organizations.

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**Sustainable Behavior Item from the Transportation Survey to Students**

*Which of the following are you likely to do to contribute to NAU’s effort to decrease our carbon footprint?*

- Walk to class instead of driving or riding the shuttle
- Ride the shuttle instead of driving across campus
- Not drive a vehicle to campus
- Bike to class instead of driving or riding the shuttle
- Ride the city bus instead of driving
- None of these

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*Spring 2012, n=1,442*