

College Theme Communities

Project Personnel

Total Award Amount \$70,000

Project Director

Name: Reyes Luna
Title: Director, Residence Life
College: University Housing Services

Co-Project Director

Name: Christy Orgeta
Title: Coordinator for Residential Education and Leadership
Department: University Housing Services

Co-Project Director

Name: Suketu Bhavsar
Title: Director
Department: Kellogg Honors College

Project Description

College themed communities (CTC) is a University Housing Services program designed to connect the academic experience with residence life. This program was created in fall 2013. In partnership with the academic colleges, residents receive educational programming, academic support, and interactions with faculty and staff outside of class. CTC follows a living learning community model-- a high impact practice that increases rates of retention and student engagement.

The objective of this proposal is to fund the implementation of CTC for residential students. Currently, a programmatic structure exists, as well as dedicated living spaces for these students. However, funds are needed to better brand, market, and to solicit cooperation from academic faculty and staff. Faculty and staff participation in this program is key to CTC's success. Funding will also be used to evaluate and edit the design of the CTC program. Because funding will be utilized to establish the program, the project will be sustainable once funding concludes.

CTC will strengthen the university by meeting the university's goal of "Student Success through an Engaging Campus Experience" (University Strategic Plan, 2010). This program facilitates and supports the students as learners and researchers by providing opportunities for the exchange of ideas. The emphasis on academic success will be beneficial to both individual colleges and the university.

CTC will assist with facilitating graduation by retaining students, and encouraging student progress towards graduating in 4-5 years (Tinto, 1998). The support provided by University Housing Services and the academic colleges seeks to reduce the achievement gap currently being experienced at Cal Poly Pomona among the underrepresented students. By participating in this program, students will be provided both social and academic support needed for disadvantaged and underrepresented students to succeed.