



ACUHO-I AWARDS GRANT TO STUDY IMPACT OF UNDERGRADUATE LIVING ARRANGEMENTS ON STUDENT SUCCESS

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COLUMBUS, Ohio – The Association of College and University Housing Officers – International (ACUHO-I) has awarded its inaugural sponsored research grant to the National Survey of Student Engagement (NSSE) based at the Indiana University Center for Postsecondary Research, an IU School of Education research center. The grant will support a three-year study to evaluate how undergraduate students’ residential options – both on- and off-campus – influence their engagement and persistence.

The study will combine data from NSSE, the nation’s largest survey of undergraduate experiences, the ACUHO-I Campus Housing Index, and the National Student Clearinghouse, to create a comprehensive picture of how students’ living arrangements influence their participation in effective educational practices and likelihood to persist in college. The study plans to collect data on the experiences of approximately 25,000 undergraduates attending 75 U.S. bachelor’s degree-granting colleges. Ultimately, the study aims to produce actionable recommendations for colleges and universities to improve the effectiveness of their residential facilities, programs, and staff.

Beth McCuskey, ACUHO-I president said, “It is critically important for campus housing and residence life professionals to be able to articulate the impacts of our programs and services on students, and to have the tools to make data-driven decisions that optimize the experiences of students living in our campus communities. This study will provide those critical resources for professionals in the field.”

“The data compiled in this study promise to be the most comprehensive and useful source for answering questions about the relationship of undergraduate living arrangements to student outcomes,” said Bob Gonyea, Associate Director for Research at the Indiana University Center for Postsecondary Research and the study’s principal investigator. “Not only will we be able to answer questions about the impact of residence life on student retention, but we will also explore the impact on student engagement – a domain of constructs proven to be associated with a host of other student outcomes.”

While past research has explored the impact of the college experience on the development and success of college students, this study represents the first holistic, multi-campus, representative study of the broader impact of living on campus on college students’ experience and success.

The grant will provide approximately \$175,000 to support the study, and was funded by the ACUHO-I Education and Research Foundation.

“ACUHO-I is committed to creating and disseminating the knowledge resources needed by campus housing and residence life professionals,” said Mary DeNiro, ACUHO-I CEO and Executive Director. “We look forward to utilizing the data gleaned from the NSSE team’s efforts to shape our programs, and to

continue to demonstrate the essential contributions of housing and residence life programs on campuses across the globe.”

NSSE researchers are seeking up to 75 institutions to participate in the study. To be eligible, institutions must participate in the 2018 NSSE administration and the 2017-2018 administration of the ACUHO-I Campus Housing Index (institution-level data collection on campus housing; usually completed by administrators in the campus housing office). Participating institutions will have their NSSE registration fee (\$300) waived, receive a complimentary NSSE administration for their sophomore students, receive a customized report on sophomore engagement, and a customized report of engagement and retention outcomes. Learn more about ACUHO-I’s Sponsored Research Program and how your institution can participate at acuho-i.org/resources.

About ACUHO-I

ACUHO-I is the Association of College and University Housing Officers-International. ACUHO-I members believe in developing exceptional residential experiences at colleges, universities, and other post-secondary institutions around the world.

Representing over 900 member institutions and 16,000 individual professional staff who work in college and university housing, ACUHO-I represents the best in how colleges and universities provide quality educational experiences for students.

Each year, over 3.1 million college students live in on-campus residence halls in the United States alone. ACUHO-I is *the* voice of professional staff who work strategically for and directly on the front-lines with those on-campus college and university students.

About NSSE

NSSE’s annual survey provides colleges and universities with rich data about the undergraduate experience to help them improve the student learning experience. Survey items represent empirically confirmed good practices in undergraduate education, reflecting behaviors by students and institutions that are associated with desired outcomes of college. Survey results point to areas where colleges and universities are performing well and aspects of the undergraduate experience that could be improved. In 2017, 727 colleges and universities participated in NSSE; over 1,600 have participated since 2000.

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