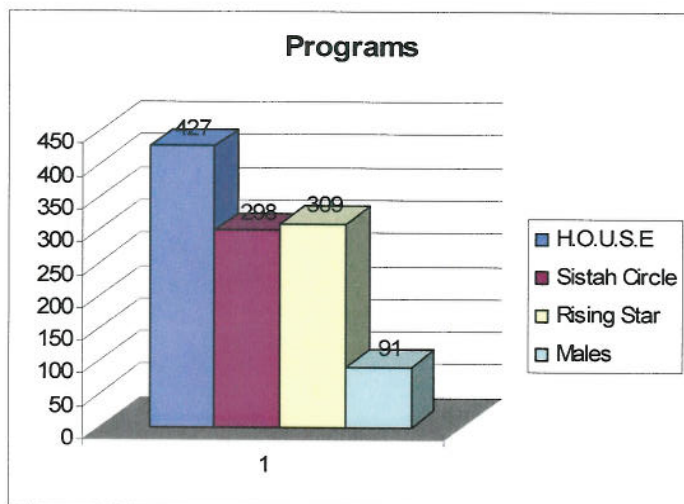

Introduction

The Department of Housing and Residence Life is committed to creating a transformative residential experience. History shows students living on campus make better grades than those students living off the campus. Intentionally designed, safe, affordable and comfortable environments that facilitate student growth are essential in this aim.

Residence Hall Retention Efforts

Housing and Residence Life's primary purpose supports the University's mission of retaining and graduating students. Academic Excellence and Retention Program, initiated in the Fall of 2007, is an innovative and unique program designed to assist students achieve academic excellence and increase retention. Retention teams under the leadership of an Associate Director, establish high expectations by encouraging, inspiring, and motivating residential students. Rising Star, Sistah Circle, M.A.L.E.S. (*Men Achieving Leadership, Excellence and Success*) and H.O.U.S.E. (*Helping Our Undergraduate Students Excel*) programs are different in design but their purpose are the same. These programs work together creating academic and social harmony in the residence halls. A total of 1,125 unduplicated students consistently participated in these programs. After revamping the H.O.U.S.E program to include outreach resourcing and intake forms, a total of 427 students were serviced. This was a significant increase from last year.



Costing \$51,260, the Morrow Hall Learning Center was the first of its kind instituted in residence halls. Unlike a traditional computer lab, it provides space for collaborative learning and enhancing technical skills. It includes a 46"LCD, a smart board, printer, six Mac computers, and a lap-top check out component. Approximately 96% of the students living in Morrow Hall utilized the Learning Center.

Additional programs included Dessert with the Chancellor, and Guaranteed 4.0 Learning System. Approximately 480 students met the Chancellor on a personal note and communicate residence hall concerns. Donna Johnson conducted Guaranteed 4.0 Learning System presentation addressing thorough strategies on how to improve grades including tips on time management, retaining information and establishing effective, and efficient study system. Because of a high failure rate in UNST classes, the Academic Excellence and Retention Department created collaboration with UNST to provide a workshop on effective presentations. Housing Excellence increased from 150 to 200 students with top GPAs and allowed them early participation in the Housing Selection Process. Finally, 171 students with a 3.5 GPA or better were invited, awarded, and celebrated at the End of the Year Gala.