Introduction

As the spring semester moves along, the time has come to begin thinking and preparing for the Housing Selection Process for next academic year. Along with that preparation comes planning for the Theme Housing Options that will be offered. This year, students will have the opportunity to propose their own Theme Housing Communities. In most cases, Theme Housing Communities will provide students who have similar interests the opportunity to live together in a specific section of a residence hall while advancing their interests within the larger residence hall and/or University communities.

What is Theme Housing?

Theme Housing at Eastern brings together students with similar interests to live together within the same area of a residence hall. Theme Housing serves as an additional opportunity for students to gain leadership, academic and social skills. Students living in Theme Housing will develop their own, individual leadership council who will work with Housing staff to advance the mission of their respective theme. Participants will be able to maximize their interests by assisting with program planning, participating in activities/events related to the theme and working within the larger residential community to promote their interest in which they live.

Current Theme Housing Offerings

Theme Housing: Community and Civic Engagement
This community will unite students who demonstrate an interest and commitment to issues surrounding social justice and community engagement. Residents will examine global and local social issues; residents will also develop and implement programs to address the needs of the local Willimantic community. This Living Learning Community will work closely with the Center for Community Engagement.

Theme Housing: Quiet/Substance Free
This community will serve as a support for students who desire a quieter residential setting and who want to surround themselves with others who commit their lifestyle to remaining substance-free. As such, students who apply for this community should be accustomed to not partaking of alcohol substances or smoke-related substances and will be required to refrain from bringing guests who do partake of such substances into the community. This community will also exercise extended “Quiet Hours” of 8pm-8am.
Theme Housing: Honors Scholars Living Learning Community
This community will serve as a support for students who have been identified as University Honors Scholars. This community will provide academic and social support for these students while providing opportunities for them to engage with the Eastern Community. This Living Learning Community will work closely with the University Honors Program.

Theme Housing: Gender Neutral Housing
This community will serve as a support for students who have a confirmed need to remain neutral as it relates to their gender identity and would find comfort in living with others who have similar identities. Students within this community will have the option of receiving support from the University Pride Room.

What are the Benefits of Living in Theme Housing?

- Each Theme Housing option has a unified space allocated to them in one of the campus residence halls.

- Each Theme Housing option will be allotted an operating budget from which they are allowed to make expenditure to fund theme related programs.

- Members will gain event planning experience

- Members will be able to maximize their interests in their respective theme by participating in events being sponsored by the theme.

- Members will have the opportunity to generate awareness of their Theme Housing option through on campus marketing and solicitation in an effort to increase membership enrollment.

- Members will have a greater connection to others with similar interest.

- Members will increase their rate of success through their enhanced connection to the University.

- Members will have an experience that only a small number of students at Eastern will be able to say they had; living in Theme Housing.
**Process for Submitting a New Theme Housing Option Proposal**

1) Determine what theme or mission your housing area will have.
   - Your theme can be anything that you and others have in common or that interest you (i.e. those interested in environmental issues, those interested in fine/performing arts, those interested in Magic/Gaming, etc.)

2) Have at least 12 students who are interested (and are willing to commit) in living in your proposed theme.
   - The interested students will need to be listed on your proposal and will eventually be asked to complete an application for your Theme (if your Theme is selected).

3) Complete the Theme Housing proposal application (applications will be available at the Information Sessions and can also be obtained at the Housing Office in Wood Support Center).

4) Submit your Theme Housing Proposal to the Housing Office by February 21, 2014.

5) Have an interview with the Theme Housing Committee during the week of February 24, 2014.

6) If selected, encourage other students to apply for your Theme Housing area by March 14, 2014.

If you have any questions about the Theme Housing proposal process, please direct them to the Director of Housing & Residential Life, LaMar Coleman at colemanla@easternct.edu or by stopping by the Housing Office in room 245 of Wood Support Services Center.
Requirements for Proposals

- Name of proposed theme.
- Description of proposed theme.
- Program requirements (what students will be required to do once accepted to the them).
- Relationship to University Core Values or mission.
- Benefits to residence hall and/or university.
- Proposed location (residence hall) for theme to be housed
- A minimum of twelve students who are interested in the theme.

Timeline

February 3: Theme Housing proposal paperwork available in Housing.
February 10: Information Table in Student Center & Hurley 5:00pm to 7:00pm
February 11: Information Session - Student Center Theater @ 6:30pm
February 12: Information Session - Student Center Room 219 @ 6:30pm
February 21: Deadline to submit Theme Housing Proposal to Housing Office
February 24 – 28: Interviews for proposed themes
March 3: Selected theme notified of their selection
March 5: Applications available for students to apply to living in Theme Housing
March 10 – 14: First Year Halls to host Info Sessions about housing selection & Theme Housing
March 14: Applications to live in Theme Housing due to Housing
March 17 - 21: Spring Break
March 24 – 28: Interviews for students desiring to live in Theme Housing
March 31: Theme Housing room assignments completed
April 3: Regular Housing Selection Process Begins (for those not selected for Theme Housing)

University Core Values

Academic Excellence:
Engagement:
Inclusion:
Empowerment:
Social Responsibility: