

BUDGET JUSTIFICATION (line item descriptions):

OPERATIONAL:

Supplies/Expenses:

- a. *Campus dialogue*: The requested funds support a three-hour workshop attended by campus stakeholders for purposes of discussing and analyzing current practices at ISU in the subject area of themed housing and the first-year experience. The structure of the workshop will include formal presentations and break-out sessions. Lunch will be served, and light office materials (note pads, nametags) are requested.

Travel:

- a. *Day trips/consultation*: Part of the initial exploration of design options for a first-year residential village is a set of site visits to institutions with innovative or exemplary programs in place. Funds are requested to support day trips to Ball State University and St. Louis University and will cover the cost of van rental, gasoline and lunch for a subset of the implementation team (4 + attendees).
 - b. *Conference workshop*: A subset of the implementation team will attend the First-year Experience Students in Transition conference in Houston, Texas, during November, 2010, to develop a working model for themed housing and co-curriculum in the residential village. Costs include conference registration for 4-6 attendees, estimated flights, lodging and meals.
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BUDGET NARRATIVE:

A first-year residential village can provide a dramatic boost to student enrollment and success by fostering and reinforcing connections between students' academic and social lives, and by strengthening the relevance of curriculum through linkages with residence life and mentoring. The residential village approach to education is holistic and intentional, qualities that are structurally attractive, engaging, and generate positive feedback between many aspects of university life – thus we expect the village concept to enroll and retain students. Increased curricular relevance and engagement should lead to the development of more substantive attachments between the student and her/his field of study, connection to support persons (staff, faculty, advisors), and the perceived value of coursework and campus life. Amplification of these relationships should lead to deeper understanding and involvement, and therefore, student success.

We have requested funding to support a campus dialogue, day trips and consultations, and attendance of national conference/ workshop. These items sequentially explore, inventory, and investigate our current practice, reference the practices of successful institutions, and engage the implementation team in the guided design of a residential village that suits the needs of our student body and is keyed upon available resources, and university mission and priorities. The campus dialogue will allow us to take stock of existing practices and personnel in themed housing, to discuss successes and challenges and to project modification and growth. The visits to St. Louis University and Ball State University will allow the implementation team to view existing models on site and to hold conversations with staff, students and faculty in programs currently in (successful) operation. Finally, having gathered information through dialogue from within and research, we plan to draft a model for the ISU residential village in the structured environment of the First Year Experience- Students in Transition conference (Houston, Texas) in fall 2010.