

After the Roadtrip: Post-Conference Advising

Compiled by Danielle A. Morgan, Salem State College; Updated for GLACURH, October 2011

They are exhausted. You are exhausted. And the conference van looks (and probably smells) like a tornado erupted. What is an advisor to do after the conference to continue the conference excitement, learning and growth?

Recognize

- Submit information to your public relations department or to your school newspaper regarding the delegates who represented your institution and their accomplishments.
- Write a letter home to families praising delegates for hard work, dedication and spirit.
- Encourage the NCC(s) and NRHH CC to create fun but meaningful “delegation awards.”
- Secretly purchase NACURH paraphernalia from the NSRO and give it to the delegates after they arrive home as a “job well done.”

Process

- Begin on the ride back: “what was your favorite part of the conference?” “What did you learn this weekend?”
- Hold a processing meeting about a week after the conference to talk about the delegation’s experience. What did they like best, how do they think they could have prepared better, what goals they would like to see their RHA and NRHH have for future conferences, what they are going to do now that they have had this experience, etc.
- Keep a “travel log” that delegates can write in to share their experiences, funny stories, quotes throughout the conference, etc. Ask them each to take the time on the way home to write a page. Use the log to then inspire future delegations.

Follow-Up

- Ask delegates to present what they learned to your RHA and NRHH.
- Require that delegates present a program in the residence halls on something they learned at the conference or an actual program they attended.
- Ask that delegates share their experiences with the next conference delegation in order to provide them with context prior to going to the conference.
- Have past delegates be a part of choosing the next delegation.
- Require that delegates be a part of your next RHA and/or NRHH leadership training activity.
- Have delegates come to a departmental meeting to talk about their experience. This not only allows your delegates to share their experiences and strengthen their speaking abilities, but allows your department to gain an understanding about what this “Peace, Love, Polar Bears” stuff is all about.

Utilize the Energy

- Encourage delegates to put their conference-high to good use by boosting up their hall council programming, increasing networking and submitting more OTMs, or even by running for an E-Board position in your RHA next year.
- Revisit bids and other award opportunities with your delegation to see if any of them “bite” at

the chance to put a bid together for the next conference.

Remember RHA and NRHH Are Not Conferences!

While you want the delegation to bring the excitement back, be sure to help them find a balance between the delegation and the organizations. Chances are, not everyone in your organizations were able to attend the conference, so focus on reuniting the delegation with the greater group and focusing energies on- campus to make the energy and excitement all-inclusive.