Housing and Residence Life: Sense of Belonging

**STRATEGIES FOR DELIVERY AND ENGAGEMENT**
Series of educational and relationship-building events throughout campus and residence halls welcoming students to campus. A collaboration between HRL, CIC, University College, and D&B.

Includes educational and relationship-building strategies:
- 1st Seven Weeks Programming
- Bobcat 2 Bobcats
- Building-wide and small group educational strategy engagements

**ASSESSMENT STRATEGIES**
- Welcome Week Survey: September 2019
- 6 Word Memoir: October/November 2019
- Bobcat Experience Picture Graph Survey: October/November 2019
- Resident Survey: November 2019

**RESULTS AND ANALYSIS**

**WELCOME WEEK SURVEY: n=1,879**
- 96% of Respondents stated "Yes", they feel like they belong at Ohio University.
- Regression revealed the top three factors leading to respondent feeling of belonging as:
  1. I believe the staff and faculty at OHIO University care about me.
  2. The events I attended during welcome week helped me believe that I can find people like me at OHIO University.
  3. I feel like I belong in my residence hall community.

Respondents living on campus are, statistically, more likely to say:
1. Participation in welcome week makes them feel valued and that they mattered.
2. That participation in welcome week events helped them believe they can find people like them at OHIO University.
3. They believe staff and faculty at OHIO University care about them.
4. They made a social connection at welcome week events they attended.

**RESULTS AND ANALYSIS**

**6 WORD MEMOIR: n=151**
In 6 Words, "What Does it Mean to be a Bobcat?"

- 56% Supportive Community
- 61% Satisfaction
- 10% Part of a Family
- 24% Other

**PICTURE GRAPH SURVEY: n=18**
Send a Picture that Captures Your Experience Being a Bobcat at Ohio University
- Categories of photos and experiences provided: Friendship, Sporting Events, Leadership, New Experiences, Institutional Pride
- The majority of submissions articulated new experiences through exploring new opportunities

"My experience being a Bobcat is stepping out of my comfort zone and into a place that allows me to have unforgettable adventures with unforgettable people. Athens may be small, but being a Bobcat has made my world feel so big."

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**IMPLICATIONS & NEXT STEPS**
- Throughout the fall semester students expressed their feelings of belonging both to campus and the residential community.
- Students see being a Bobcat as being part of a family or community with pride in exploring new experiences.
- Future plans are to continue these assessments and correlate additional out of class experiences that relate to sense of belonging.