

Service House Dialogues

Brief description of program / project:

The Bennion Service House offers residents the unique opportunities to examine their own civic engagement in a living and learning community, while engaging in and promoting various service experiences throughout the year. Residents seek ways to serve as a catalyst for the Lowell Bennion Community Service Center's mission of fostering life-long service and civic responsibility by engaging the University with the greater community in action, change and learning.

Monthly Service House dialogues contribute to the living learning community programming. This survey was initiated with the idea that we could survey dialogue participants to see what they are learning from our event and to elicit ideas for improvements for future Service House Dialogue programs.

Who was asked to complete the survey:

Students who attended Service House Dialogues; this included a variety of U of U students, Community Engaged Scholars, and Service House Residents.

Respondents: 92

Administration Type:

Link for Data-Entry

Summary of Key Findings:

Overall the service house dialogues proved successful during the 2013-2014 academic year, with positive evaluations from student participants. When asked to what extent did participation increase their knowledge on a given dialogue topic, the majority of student respondents (69.57%) rated the increase in the 5-7 range (greatly). We found that beneficial learning and experience included: exposure to community resources, organizations and opportunities, building connections with others (students and community members), how to gain and maintain civic engagement, and feeling inspired. Suggested improvements included increased program time and more opportunity for small group discussion.

Actions Taken:

The Bennion Center increased the dialogue program time from 60 minutes to 90 minutes and will allot more time for small group discussions. Results will be shared with 2014-2015 the Bennion Service House resident advisor and resident for consideration as they begin planning and facilitating dialogues.

Which Student Affairs goals does this program / project align with?

Leadership. Provide meaningful educational experiences in order to develop competent, confident, dedicated leaders who take responsibility for their performance

Service. Cultivate an ethic of lifelong community service and engagement

Education. Facilitate meaningful experiences that enhance the academic and research missions of the university for an increasing number of students

Partnerships. Continue to build solid foundations and enhance reciprocal relationships with stakeholders inside and out of the University community

Development. Carry out fundraising activities and public relations efforts to support, sustain and grow Bennion

Center operations

Efficacy. Collaborate to evaluate and improve programs that are mission focused

Which Learning Domain(s) does this program / project align with?

1. Develop students as a whole through the cultivation and enrichment of the body, mind and spirit
3. Promote diversity on campus
5. Partner with faculty, staff, and external constituencies to foster student development and enhance the greater community
6. Utilize a coordinated assessment, evaluation, and research approach to promote data driven decision-making