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# Collaborative Leadership Within a Residence Hall Staff: Forming Effective Leaders Working Towards a Common Goal

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## ASACCU Program Proposal

### **Presenters**

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### **Title**

Collaborative Leadership Within a Residence Hall Staff: Forming Effective Leaders Working Towards a Common Goal

### **Principles of Good Practice for Student Affairs at Catholic Colleges and Universities**

This workshop incorporates the following *Principles of Good Practice for Student Affairs at Catholic Colleges and Universities*:

- Grounds policies, practices, and decisions in the teachings and living tradition of the Church. Builds and prepares the student affairs staff to make informed contributions to the Catholic mission of the institution;
- Challenges students in high standards of personal behavior and responsibility through the formation of character and virtues;
- Invites and accompanies students into the life of the Catholic church through prayer, liturgy, sacraments, and spiritual direction;
- Assists students in discerning and responding to their vocations, understanding potential professional contributions, and choosing particular career directions.

### **Brief description**

The presenters will define collaborative leadership and examine its application on residence hall staffs at Catholic colleges and universities. They will share what collaborative leadership looks like in Fields Hall, an undergraduate female residence hall at the University of Portland. They will share how Resident Assistants (RAs) are guided to take ownership of their communities and to develop an individual sense of spirituality that they integrate into their RA roles and careers. They will reveal how these ideas are linked to training from the University's Residence Life department that develops RAs' self-confidence and provides skills in areas like public speaking and conflict management. Finally, they will share steps

their department plans to take to improve their students' residential learning experience and professional development using academic research conducted by one of their very own Fields Hall RAs.

### **Connection to Conference Theme “Taking Flight: Developing Leaders for the Common Good”**

The presentation will link personal, spiritual, and professional development through the resident assistant leadership role to positive outcomes in students' lives and careers after graduation.

### **Presentation Outline**

The presentation will be delivered lecture-style with accompanying Powerpoint slides.

- Overview of Residence Life structure at University of Portland and in Fields Hall
- Learning and development goals for RAs in Fields Hall at UP
- Fundamental components of RA role in Fields Hall and how principles of collaborative leadership are implemented
- How to develop a sense of individual spirituality to assist the RA in his or her personal life and one that he or she can then model and incorporate into their program plans
- Share how the Fields Hall staff at UP emphasizes spirituality in general terms and incorporates familial elements such as their *St. Nicholas Shoes* program
- Outcomes including feedback from RAs
- Overview of RA training and development at UP and connection to collaborative leadership
- As an example, present an RA's research on roommate conflicts, how we are using it, and how the practice of this skill is transferrable to life outside of the residence hall

### **Intended Audience**

Residence life professionals at all levels