

Campus Community Coalition

Summary of Activities

October 2008-May 2009

Assessment and Planning

The Campus Community Coalition Steering Committee has finalized revisions to the Coalition's mission statement, articulated core values to guide its work, and defined general goals for the next several years.

Assessment and planning activities are currently underway. The assessment process includes reviewing local data pertaining to the Coalition's goals and identifying other existing campus and community efforts in order to maximize collaboration and avoid duplication. In addition, best practices research from across the country is being reviewed to identify strategies and programs that have been shown to be best or promising practices.

Based on local needs and resources, efforts already in place, and best practices information, action plans will be developed over the summer with implementation starting in the fall of 2009.

Two planning meetings are scheduled to share assessment information and gather Coalition members' input regarding projects and specific suggestions regarding implementation. Please come!

- Monday, June 1, 2:00-3:30 PM, Edens Hall 110, Western Washington University Campus
- Tuesday, June 16, 3:30-5:00 PM, Municipal Court Fireplace Room, 2014 C St (free parking!)

University Relations

In an effort to further enhance its relationship with the greater Bellingham community, Western Washington University recently added additional staff support for the Campus Community Coalition from the Office of University Relations. The Coalition, which has a longstanding "home" in Prevention and Wellness Services of the Student Affairs Division, will continue its primary focus of addressing health and safety issues, especially challenges related to student alcohol use. However, it is now also positioned to assist with some other student/community related issues and to strengthen community partnerships through its staff support from the Office of University Relations.

Hospitality Resource Alliance

The Hospitality Resource Alliance has been meeting monthly to foster ongoing communication among group members and work together on a customer education campaign to decrease alcohol-related problems in and around downtown bars.

In winter quarter, 2009 the HRA partnered with a WWU public relations class to create campaign plans. Students researched the target audience of 21-25 year old bar customers and developed

strategies and tactics to reach this audience. The HRA is incorporating many of their ideas into its campaign, which will be launched in fall 2009.

HRA stakeholders include owners and staff of local bars, the Liquor Control Board, Bellingham Police Department, University Police Department, WWU's Violence Prevention Project, the Downtown Renaissance Network, Bellingham's Downtown Alliance for Music and Nightlife, neighborhood associations, and WWU's Sustainable Transportation, which runs the late-night shuttle.

Viking Community Builders Student Club

This year the Coalition developed a close partnership with the Viking Community Builders, a new WWU Associated Students club. A group of WWU students started the club in 2008 after participating in the Coalition's Let's Talk forums. The dialogue at the Let's Talk forum inspired these students to create a way to encourage positive relationships between students and community members on an ongoing basis.

The Viking Community Builders have recruited members, held a planning workshop, and met weekly throughout the academic year. They have organized neighborhood litter pick-ups, participated in Earth Day service projects and Happy Valley community meals, partnered with the Coalition's Let's Talk forums, and forged linkages with several neighborhood associations. To cap off their club's first year, they are creating a permanent bulletin board display in the Viking Union that includes a map of Bellingham's neighborhoods, reasons to get involved in the neighborhoods, and neighborhood association contact information.

The Viking Community Builders' goals are to:

- Foster communication between students and community members
- Create peaceful, cooperative relationships between students and neighbors
- Promote mutual respect between students and neighbors
- Help students feel connected to and part of neighborhoods and the Bellingham community
- Help community members see that WWU students care about Bellingham, are community members, and are assets to the community.

Let's Talk Forum – “Living Together in Bellingham: Student Parties, Enforcement Practices, and Neighborly Relations”

Let's Talk forums were held in the York, Sehome and Happy Valley neighborhoods in October, and on the WWU Campus in winter quarter. These events bring together students, community members, rental owners and managers, and law enforcement personnel to discuss the issues facing students and long-term residents living together in Bellingham's neighborhoods. This year they were held in collaboration with the Viking Community Builders club, the WWU communications Department, and the Teaching and Learning Academy.

For spring quarter, the Coalition is partnering with students on the event “The PD and Me,” organized by WWU Lifestyle Advisors. The event will provide a venue for students to ask questions of and interact with personnel from various local law enforcement agencies.