Grace Gerow

12/13/17

Arts 098

Final Project Synopsis

For my final project, I chose to research the bLUeprint program established here at Lehigh. The bLUeprint booklet was one of the first things I got upon my arrival at Lehigh, and since then has been a large part of my education at the university. Started in 2013, the bLUeprint program at Lehigh was created to help first-year students adjust and acclimate to university. It is based on the 5 Foundations for Student Success: identity development, collaborative connections, creative curiosity, inclusive leadership, and professional growth and success. In order to teach these five foundations, Lehigh created a bLUeprint handbook where students are able to organize and write about their experiences at Lehigh, as well as created the 5x10 programs. My final project focused more on the 5x10’s because all freshman are required to participate. 5x10’s are a series of seminars and events that are each based on the 5 Foundations for Student Success, and every first-year student is required to attend at least 5 of them within the first 10 weeks, hence the name 5x10. There are a variety of programs offered, so each student can attend ones that interest them. I personally really enjoyed the SERVE 5x10 program I attended because it introduced me to a new opportunity at Lehigh. If I had not attended this event, I wouldn’t have known about the community service trips that Lehigh offers to students. I am not the only student however that enjoyed these programs. After researching the bLUeprint program, I found an article from the Brown and White that shared many quotes from students who enjoyed the program as well. Through these events students have learned what they wanted to minor in, met professors whose classes they wanted to join, and much more. Not only are these events successful academically for students, but they are also successful in showing the students the cultural and social aspects of Lehigh. For example, they have many seminars and events on the topic of Greek life, which is a very prominent aspect of the Lehigh social scene. Furthermore, through these events first-year students are able to meet and connect with their classmates who also attend these events. After gathering information on the program, I found a scholarly article with data that supports the development of the bLUeprint program. Pilot Mudhovozi gathered data from a university in Zimbabwe that shows how different factors make freshman students very stressed during their first semester and year at college. From his data, he was able to come to the conclusion that more support from the university and opportunities for the students to get involved in would help this very prevalent issue. To me, the bLUeprint program is a perfect example of one of the ways a university is able to help their students transition from their home to their new school. Because of all these reasons, I think that the bLUeprint program is a very important part of the 2017 Lehigh student experience. This program encapsulates all the different aspects of Lehigh and facilitates a smooth and seamless transition from high school to college for freshman. It also demonstrates the strong sense of community here, and all the opportunities that students are not only able to, but encouraged, to get involved in.

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