

## Lunches with Leaders:

Bridging the gap between leaders of the present and of the future.



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## Leadership Quality Circle



The University of Oregon Housing Leadership Quality Circle is made up of student, paraprofessional & professional members. The Quality Circle's purpose is to help provide and promote leader opportunities to the greater University Housing population.

## Lunches With Leaders

These Lunches are intended to be a casual conversation for Faculty or Staff and community-minded students to interact in a non-threatening way to the student. This is a valuable experience for the faculty, as well, in which a faculty guest shares their experience as a leader.



## How Does It Work?

- ⌚ The Leadership Quality circle extends invitations to faculty, Staff, and student leaders across campus to be the guest of honor at an upcoming lunch.
- ⌚ Once the professional or student leader identifies the date that they are available, publicity for the event goes out.
- ⌚ Each lunch is approximately 1 hour long.
- ⌚ The lunches take place in a smaller conference room connected to one of the University of Oregon's dining centers.
- ⌚ Each speaker is allowed time to eat with the students, followed by a short, prepared presentation. The bulk of the program is a question-and-answer session between the speaker and the student audience after the presentation.







## Who do we invite to these lunches and why?



- Campus administrators.
- Student leaders from across campus.
- Faculty and staff with diverse perspectives.
- Community leaders.

## Past Lunch Guests of Honor

-  Kevin Hatfield, P.H.D.- History Professor & Interim Assistant Director for Academic Initiatives with University Housing.
-  John Duncan -Director of the Leadership Resource Office.
-  Emily McLain- 2007-2008 ASUO President.
-  Sandy Schoonover- Director of Residence Life for University Housing.



## What are the main goals of this program?

- ✓ Program during a time (lunch) when the faculty are on campus, available, and willing to make time to engage the students in an informal setting.
- ✓ Help students and faculty connect with each other in a non-threatening way to the student, as well as providing a valuable experience for the faculty.
- ✓ Foster out-of-class interaction between students and faculty, and expand the academic enterprise beyond the walls of the classroom.
- ✓ Present students with a wide variety of leadership styles and philosophies.
- ✓ Response to a long-term decline in out-of-class faculty interaction: only 47% of first-year students report spending at least one hour per week talking with instructors outside of class compared to 63% reported in 1989 [2004 Higher Education Research Institute (HERI) Study]

## How does Lunches with Leaders benefit students?

- Have discussions between students and faculty
- Engage students in the importance of interacting with faculty.
- Students become relaxed and seek faculty out more.
- Networking .
- Students have the opportunity to learn from a range of perspectives, "stories," and experiences related to leadership.
- Helps to break down fear.



## What are the Benefits to Faculty & Staff?

- Interaction outside the usual hierarchy of faculty/staff vs. student.
- An opportunity to converse about important issues that are often overlooked.
- The opportunity to talk about personal life stories.
- The opportunity to hear students perspective on leadership issues.
- A free lunch ☺



## How do these lunches support the living learning co-curricular system?

- Helps to show students how there are different leadership opportunities available and resources for them all around campus.
- Helps with future program attendance, as faculty get involved in the hall.
- Encourages students to get involved in leadership
- Teaches about practical leadership opportunities

## Positive and lasting effects

- ✓ Informal interaction between students and faculty/staff that flattens the role hierarchy.
- ✓ Stronger connections between University Housing and our campus partners.
- ✓ Opportunities for student interaction with senior administrators.
- ✓ Allows students to observe a variety of styles and perspectives as they develop their own leadership identity.

## How is Lunches with Leaders different than your ordinary "take a professor to lunch" program?

- ☞ Takes pressure off of the student to invite Faculty.
- ☞ Faculty member gets to interact with more than just one student at a time
- ☞ Guests of honor get special personalized invitation to speak at a Housing departmental academic program.
- ☞ Each lunch has a mediator from the Leadership Quality Circle who can facilitate discussion if ever there is a lag in questions.









## Challenges and struggles getting faculty member involvement.

- Often faculty involvement is co-curricular activities and living learning initiatives do not count toward tenure.
- Inability/ lack of desire to take time to participate.
- Lack of knowledge about what is Residence life does and the learning living initiatives we are working on.
- It can be challenging to contact faculty outside of the department.
- Finding faculty who can successfully articulate their leadership role (Coaching).

## How to get faculty more invested.

- ✓ It starts with making good personal connection with faculty members.
- ✓ Provide incentives.
- ✓ Articulate to faculty how this program will bridge the gap by creating positive relationships with faculty
- ✓ Consult Faculty on what would draw them in.
- ✓ Have good food ☺

## How to get students interested.

-  Focus on students desire to hear about others discussing leadership
-  Getting feedback on who they want to hear speak.
-  Getting productive questions prepared for quality circle mediators.
-  Offer extra credit, or include as requirement in hall
-  Focus groups
-  Get interesting speakers



## How can other schools incorporate this program on their campus?

- It's Easy!
- Find a group of people willing to recruit speakers, arrange spaces, and publicize the program to students.
- Tailor the speaker list to specific needs on your campus or around a specific theme. You could also aim for a broad approach that will bring a variety of perspectives.



## Upcoming Lunches with Leaders

March 5<sup>th</sup>:



David B. Frohnmayer –  
President of University of Oregon.

March:12<sup>th</sup>:



Officer Myers  
Department of Public Safety.

## Discussion Questions

1. Why this Session? What did you hope to gain and learn from choosing this program session to attend this afternoon?
2. How do you motivate students to get interested and participate in "extracurricular" learning?
3. What challenges and success are you having on your campus with faculty-student interaction? Do you face any particular obstacles to engaging faculty involvement?
4. What will you walk away with today from this session? What can you take back to your institution?

# Questions?

