



## Returning RA Application 2012-2013

1. Choose 2 of the 5 Strategic Goals and create one program using the checklist provided. This should be a new program, one that you have not done before.

### ***Goal #1 – Promote Civic Responsibility***

Provide programs and services that promote an ethos of respect and civic responsibility and encourage a commitment to active involvement on campus and in local and global communities.

### ***Goal #2 – Support Interpersonal Development***

Support the development of interpersonal skills and abilities, including expertise in leadership and communication, in ways that complement our academic program, help students to achieve their post-collegiate goals, and prepare them for lives of consequence.

### ***Goal #3 – Cultivate Intercultural Learning***

Create a campus community that celebrates and embraces difference, encourages dialog, advances the free exchange of ideas, and provides opportunity for students to develop intercultural knowledge, attitudes, and skills.

### ***Goal #4 – Foster Student Wellness and Safety***

Foster a safe environment that is supportive of individual and community health, and designed to enhance the physical, emotional, and spiritual wellness of all students.

### ***Goal #5 – Support the Academic Mission Through Co-Curricular Learning***

Cultivate a vibrant and engaging living-learning environment that encourages academic and co-curricular success and promotes meaningful connections through active involvement in the activities of the Colleges.

### Checklist

Description – make sure to include specific information (who, what, when, where, why, etc.)

What strategic goals are you reaching? How?

What kind of activities will there be?

What is the expected duration of the program?

How many people do you expect to attend?

Itemized budget

How much will marketing cost?

How much will your supplies cost?

Marketing – include an example of the marketing materials.

How do you plan to market your event?

Where are you hanging up flyers/marketing materials?

2. Describe in detail a program from the past year that you created and reflect on it. What did you do to plan for it? What were the goals of your program? What did your program accomplish? Provide an example of your marketing materials or how you publicized this program.
3. Tell us about a time that you implemented the Colleges' policies. How did you do this? Why did you do it? How did you feel afterwards? If you had to deal with a similar situation again would you do anything differently?
4. Some Returning RAs will live in upperclass areas while others will be in FY areas on campus. All Returning RAs will be leaders on their RA staff. In the role of a Returning RA how will you keep yourself and your residents engaged given the possible locations you could be placed in?
5. What do you expect to gain from the Returner RA position? How will you know if you are successful?
6. Describe a challenge you faced in your RA role? How did you overcome it and what did you learn from it?
7. Read the Leadership Lessons from the Geese. There are many lessons that we can learn from the geese. Identify one role/position of the geese that you can relate to. As a student on campus you may have had one role in the "V" formation. Now that you have served as a Resident Assistant has your position in the "V" changed? If so, how or why? Give examples of this change. (See Attached)

*Returning RAs will present their application to professional staff during their interview time.  
This interview may consist of a verbal conversation, PowerPoint presentation,  
video, or another presentation method.*

## Leadership Lessons from Geese

### **Fact 1**

As each goose flaps its wings, it creates an “uplift” for the birds that follow. By flying in a “V” formation, the whole flock has 71% greater flying range than if each bird flew alone.

#### Lesson

*People who share a common direction and sense of community can get where they are going quicker and easier, because they are traveling on the thrust of each other.*

### **Fact 2**

When a goose falls out of formation, it suddenly feels the drag and resistance of flying alone. It quickly moves back into formation to take advantage of the lifting power of the bird immediately in front of it.

#### Lesson

*If we have as much sense as a goose, we stay in formation with those headed where we want to go. We are willing to accept their help and give our help to others.*

### **Fact 3**

When the lead bird tires, it rotates back into the formation to take advantage of the lifting power of the bird immediately in front of it.

#### Lesson

*It pays to take turns doing the hard tasks and sharing leadership. As with geese, people are interdependent on each others' skills, capabilities, and unique arrangement of gifts, talents, or resources.*

### **Fact 4**

The geese flying in formation honk to encourage those up front to keep up their speed.

#### Lesson

We need to make sure our honking is encouraging. In groups where there is encouragement, the production is much greater. The power of encouragement (to stand by one's heart or core values and to encourage the heart and core values of others) is the quality of honking we seek.

### **Fact 5**

When a goose gets sick, wounded, or shot down, two geese drop out of formation and follow it down to help and protect it. They stay with it until it dies or is able to fly again. Then, they launch out with another formation to catch up with the flock.

#### Lesson

*If we have as much sense as geese, we will stand by each other in difficult times as well as when we're strong.*

