



Northern Illinois
University
Your Future. Our Focus.

2018 ANNUAL REPORT



DIVISION OF STUDENT AFFAIRS

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LETTER FROM THE DEAN OF STUDENTS

The 2018 Annual Report for the Division of Student Affairs highlights the achievements of many talented and dedicated individuals who commit their daily work to making a difference in the lives of NIU students.

In response to the evolving needs of our students and in alignment with Program Prioritization recommendations, 2017-2018 was a year of re-visioning the work of the division. We have had the opportunity to continue to strengthen our core functions and values. As we reaffirmed our mission, vision, and core values, we began the process of adjusting our previous strategic plan, which had included our enrollment management partners, and adapting it to include our new dean of students model.

While our work continues to evolve and adapt to the changing needs of our students, I am excited that we have begun the process of refining our focus as we support our students in pursuit of their aspirations.



Forward together,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "K. Wesener Michael". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Kelly Wesener Michael, Ed.D.
Associate Vice President for Student Affairs
Chief Student Affairs Officer and Dean of Students

CAMPUS CHILD CARE

MISSION STATEMENT

NIU Campus Child Care (CCC) is an early childhood program that strives for excellence in providing care and education to children within the NIU community. CCC succeeds by partnering with families, collaborating with community partners and drawing from the best research and practice available within the early childhood profession.

Campus Child Care (CCC) and The Child Development Lab (CDL) continued to formulate plans for the summer (July 1, 2018) to merge the two programs. Fall semester 2017, we conducted focus groups to gather parent, staff and advisory board perspectives on the merger. Spring semester 2018, the focus was on the building of staff relationships and facilitated professional development on Change and Strengths Quest. By May 2018, we streamlined our enrollment processes and gave the CDL families an orientation for their start in the CCC building.

We have been working with NIU Budget and Finance to build a new node for our two cost centers and to transition from Student Affairs to The College of Health and Human Sciences (HHS). We worked with Human Resources to make sure that staff are moved into HHS as well. We also started the process with the Department of Children and Family Services for license amendments for the expansion of new age groups served in the Gable Hall location. We also submitted the application to the National Association for the Education of Young Children (NAEYC) to add a satellite to our existing accreditation. This allows both units to operate under one accreditation as our new program in the Child Development and Family Center, with accreditation through 2023.

Campus Child Care successfully underwent an external review for NAEYC reaccreditation. The external review consisted of an application for site visit (July 2017), completion of staff and family survey data (February 2018), finalization of classroom and program portfolios (December 2017) and a site visit (March 2018).

HIGHLIGHTS

- Transitioned out of the Division of Student Affairs. Mike Stang facilitated relationships and connections between Student Affairs and Academics.
- Successful reaccreditation (NAEYC).
- Merged the CCC and CDL programs May 2018 into the Child Development and Family Center.
- Funded \$9,000 of equipment through the Illinois Quality Counts Grant.
- Funded a \$500 multicultural art education books through the Altrusa Literacy Grant.
- Completed CCAP Professional Development Requirements for 48 student employees.
- Provided care to 45 student families.
- 36% of student employees are from under-represented populations.



CAMPUS DINING SERVICES

MISSION STATEMENT

Campus Dining Services (CDS) is dedicated to connecting the University community through a dining experience that nourishes both the mind and body by creating a collaborative environment that promotes diversity, inclusion and a sense of community.

Campus Dining is under construction. In 2018, we worked on improving quality, customer satisfaction and employee development. A strategic imperative for the year was to reduce costs while concurrently keeping quality and student satisfaction a priority.

In summer of 2017, the Neptune Dining Facility was remodeled to include new equipment, seating and food formats. Campus Dining is not only a place to eat – it is also a place to socialize, reconnect and a place to feel like home. The Neptune Dining remodel has accomplished this. Similarly, we're hoping to gain comparable results from the Holmes Student Center renovation.

Opening April 2018, Coffee & Bagels is spearheading our plan to bring regional and national brands to campus. It is a very popular destination for students to gather, study and socialize. Approval was granted to improve and revamp our in-house location at Three Sons Café. Risky Business BBQ located in Three Sons Café is a “place to be” while in the academic buildings, as is Sandella’s in DuSable and Sandella’s in the Coffee Corner. This will meet students’ need for a healthy grab-n-go food option on campus.

CDS continues a long history of collaboration with the school of Family, Consumer and Nutrition Sciences. Students in the Dietetic Internship program are simultaneously working toward their Master of Science in Nutrition and Dietetics and becoming registered dietitians. The students gain real-world experience managing a food service operation by collaborating with staff to design and forecast a menu, managing staffing levels, ordering food, marketing their meal, performing inventory, and conducting production meetings.

One of our most meaningful collaborations is with the Huskie Food Pantry. CDS has donated leftover produce that would have otherwise gone to waste. We also were able to provide the pantry with a freezer to store additional perishable items. Three members of our staff volunteered to be on the advisory board: executive director, registered dietitian, and a nutrition intern.

HIGHLIGHTS

- Provided nutritional data on food and beverage items served in the residence halls, allowing students immediate access to menus in order to manage food allergies and make healthy choices. Use of the dashboard increased 67% for new user sessions compared to last year.
- Redesigned the CDS website and increased unique page views by 44% over FY17.
- Marketed our off-campus meal plans and increased participation on an average of 10% compared to FY17.
- Offered over 40 nutrition education outreaches in the last year by CDS nutrition team through social media, face-to-face engagement and print materials.



COUNSELING AND CONSULTATION SERVICES

MISSION STATEMENT

The mission of the Counseling and Consultation Services (CCS) is to support the academic, emotional, social and cultural development of students. Our student-centered programs include counseling, assessment, advocacy services, crisis response, outreach, consultation and training. We help students address personal challenges and develop the skills, abilities and knowledge to empower them to take full advantage of their college experience.

CCS fulfills the vision and mission of the Division of Student Affairs, the purpose to make a difference in the lives of students, and the broader purpose of the university through all departmental activities, from service, to outreach, to consultation. Additionally, CCS significantly contributes to the retention of students through therapy services provided. Students experience decreased depression and anxiety symptoms, along with increased coping skills and resiliency, allowing them to perform better academically and increase their connection to the institution. This impact is captured through multiple methods of assessment. The Counseling Center Assessment of Psychological Symptoms, a scale used to assess symptoms and progress across the course of therapy, indicate that students who showed significantly elevated levels of overall psychological distress at walk-in (when compared to a national sample of university counseling center clients) demonstrated improvement in symptoms.

Of students who initially presented with distress, 77% showed a decrease in their symptoms. When compared with a national sample of counseling center clients, clients at CCS demonstrated greater-than-average levels of positive symptom change. CCS's average change for clients on the scale measuring general distress levels was greater than the change achieved by 79% of the national sample. Similar percentiles are noted for depression (72%) and generalized anxiety (83%). Results from a Likert Scale satisfaction survey assessing academic performance and retention indicate that 89% of clients reported that counseling helped their academic performance (a lot or extremely) and 92% reported it helped them remain a student.

HIGHLIGHTS

- Implemented ProtoCall to enhance after-hours and crisis services. During implementation (January through June 2018) ProtoCall's licensed mental health professionals responded to 95 NIU contacts, doubling service delivery from the previous in-house model.
- In collaboration with Military and Post-Traditional Student Services and the Office of Student Engagement and Experiential Learning, increased membership and defined structure for Breaking Barriers Success during its second year, with 169 students attending events across the year.
- Provided Question, Persuade and Refer (QPR) gatekeeper training through Helping Huskies Thrive to 210 faculty and staff, and other suicide prevention programs for 152 faculty and staff members. In addition, 416 students were trained with the online module, Kognito.
- Implemented changes to substance use education and intervention program. Students who were previously referred to the Wellness Promotion office for Brief Alcohol Screening and Intervention for College Students (BASICS) for alcohol violations were absorbed into the CCS system. CCS implemented a group format to accommodate increase in referrals. Services increased by 118% with 170 clients in the program, compared to 78 the previous year.
- Implemented a triage system in order to ensure more efficient service delivery to students. CCS streamlined the process for entering the system as a client from a walk-in system to a triage system. CCS staff provided 1,006 triage appointments where student were referred to individual services, CCS groups or local/campus providers.

DISABILITY RESOURCE CENTER

MISSION STATEMENT

The mission of the Disability Resource Center is to create an accessible, inclusive, sustainable learning environment where disability is recognized as an aspect of diversity that is integral to the campus community and to society.

Disability Resource Center's (DRC) biggest challenge, in addition to perpetually being understaffed and under-resourced, remains the inaccessibility of our space for our most important constituents; our students. Being located on the fourth floor of the Health Services Building is reflective of the medical model of disability. Past internal and external reviews, as well as the more recent NIU Program Prioritization reports are clear in specifying that students would be better served in a student-centered, non-elevator dependent space with student and handicapped parking available. This would fulfill best practices of universal design and the social model of disability.

The director continued to provide training and presentations throughout the year for faculty, staff, student groups, teaching assistants and departments. Staff represented the DRC at open houses, served university committees and hosted numerous high schools visiting campus. Members of the DRC served on the Presidential Commission for Persons with Disabilities, the Supported Professional Staff Council, and Administrative Professional Advisory Council.

The DRC is proud to work collaboratively with many offices across campus (Admissions, the Bursar's Office, Creative Services, Division of Information Technology, Facilities, Athletics, Housing and Residential Services, Department of Engineering, Office of the Provost, all colleges, Testing Services, Students' Legal Assistance, Student Conduct, Counseling and Consultation Services, Recreation and Wellness, Career Services, the Honors Program, Student Involvement and Leadership Development, Campus Dining Services, Student Affairs, Military and Post-Traditional Student Services, and Health Services).

HIGHLIGHTS

- Acquired five more office spaces on the fourth floor allowing increased student testing space, one staff office and a conference room.
- Presented "Doing More with Less: Five Strategies to Support Students Beyond Accommodations" at the regional Association on Higher Education and Disability conference with five staff members attending.
- Awarded a Canon Fellowship to collaborate with the Division of Information Technology benefiting both departments.
- Received the *Soaring the Greatness Award* from the Division of Student Affairs.
- Provided 978 student appointments.
- Provided 2,353 adapted/administered exams.
- Provided over 2,900 hours of sign language interpretation in class, with over 300 requests for outside of class.
- Provided CART (Live Realtime captioning services for over 1,900 hours in class, and 118 out of class requests).
- Provided closed captioning services for 367 videos for a total of 110 hours of CCS.



HEALTH SERVICES

MISSION STATEMENT

NIU Health Services provides high-quality health care and preventive services to eligible individuals, a comprehensive student health insurance program and advocacy for optimal health within the university population. Health Services strives to meet the demonstrated needs of a diverse student population, in accordance with the core values, vision, and mission of the Division of Student Affairs.'

Health Services (HS) aligns itself within the core values of the Division of Student Affairs' student-centered service and collaborative partnerships focused on student success. HS serves as a teaching lab and resource for experiential learning for numerous academic areas, including Health and Human Sciences (Advanced Practice Nurses) and Department of Kinesiology and Physical Education (Athletic Training). Furthermore, HS continually focuses on staff professional development holding monthly staff meetings, various committee meetings and regular communications to the entire staff, continually conveying differing themes around stewardship, service, adaptability and entrepreneurial spirit.

Student Health Advisory Committee (SHAC) is the primary student group which interacts with Health Services on the behalf of students. HS provided membership for two SHAC students to the Medical Group Management Association, Illinois Chapter. This professional association is an excellent adjunct to the Healthcare Management program. One of the students was able to utilize the chapter in securing a practice management position prior to graduation with an ophthalmology practice. HS has connected eight students to health care entities who have provided them with shadowing opportunities.

HIGHLIGHTS

- Served a total of 4,803 individual patients.
- Conducted a total of 13,361 clinic visits.
- Mitigated a significant Student Health Insurance premium increase via a proactively planned redesign.
- Initiated special event days such as Jeans Day, Opening Day and NIU Football Day as a means for team building, to encourage a positive work environment and applaud staff.
- Donated food valued at over \$6,000 to the Huskie Food Bank.
- Implemented a unique approach to staffing that yielded a significant savings versus the earlier use of outside, contracted providers.
- Completed the 5-Year Assessment Review and achieved "Fully Met Expectations."



HOLMES STUDENT CENTER

MISSION STATEMENT

The Holmes Student Center (HSC) serves as the center for campus life supporting educational, cultural, social, recreational, and leadership programs and services that are integral to the academic experience.

Over the course of FY18, the HSC supported five Admissions open houses, 37 Admissions TGIF events and 160 Admissions special tours. This is in addition to supporting 44 orientation events. During FY18, the Holmes Student Center agreed to continue to waive charges for AV rental for orientation days. Likewise, the HSC once again supported Family Weekend events by sponsoring a movie and providing free refreshments.

The HSC and the Hospitality and Tourism Management Program within Family, Nutrition and Consumer Sciences also increased collaborative efforts over the course of FY18. The Hotel at Holmes partnered closely with Hospitality and Tourism Management to host a spring course in the hotel, employing the hotel as a lab for hospitality students. In addition, the manager for the hotel, staff from HSC Dining and the director of the HSC served on a panel of guest speakers in the class several times throughout the year. The HSC currently has a hospitality intern working with a joint program with hours here at the hotel and at the local DeKalb County Convention and Visitors Bureau.

Furthermore, the HSC partnered with the Office of Academic Diversity, Equity and Inclusion as well as the Pick Museum of

Cultural Anthropology to sponsor a university guestship by the Rev. Dr. Jesse Jackson Tuesday, Sept. 5 in conjunction with the opening of the Quilts and Human Rights exhibit.

HIGHLIGHTS

- Partnered with Facilities Management Services and consultants to bring much needed renovations, the first major renovation since 1968.
- Completed a full review, evaluation and implementation of a space use policy.
- Outsourced management of the University Bookstore to a private company, Follett.
- Transitioned from a hotel reservation tracking system which prevented web-based reservations to a new software package which will extend this service to the NIU community.
- Integrated the HSC Building Service workers with the broader University Building Services.
- Hosted the Rev. Dr. Jesse Jackson event where there were 650 attendees.



HOUSING AND RESIDENTIAL SERVICES

MISSION STATEMENT

Housing and Residential Services is committed to providing a safe, supportive and educationally empowering community where students can learn, grow and be successful within a complex and diverse world. Through our facilities, programs and the collaborative efforts of our staff, student leaders and campus partners, we promote respect, individuality and personal responsibility.

One area of pride for Housing and Residential Services (HRS) is our diverse pool of graduate student employees. This is evidenced by our graduating cohort for spring 2018. Of the eight student staff receiving their master's degrees, five were students of color and one was an international student. For the first time, HRS and NIU were cosponsors of the Minority and Friends Network at the annual Oshkosh Placement Exchange. We also saw a modest increase in the visible diversity of our student applicant pools for all fall hiring processes.

HRS strengthened and aligned resources with regard to Living -Learning Communities and Special Interest Communities. HRS worked intentionally with the Office of Student Engagement and Experiential Learning to better align position descriptions for house leaders, marketing and communication efforts, and realistic floor offerings for each LLC. Additionally, HRS worked with campus partners to lay the groundwork for a new Special Interest Community in Neptune Hall for fall 2019 based around esports. In order to help students achieve their academic and cocurricular goals and their continuing connection to other students, staff and faculty, HRS sent representatives to the Institute on Sophomore Student Success supporting the progression of the Second-Year Experience program at NIU.

Of particular note were the numerous awards and distinctions achieved by our students and staff. Our RHA delegation was named "Most Spirited Delegation" at the National Association of College and University Residence Halls, Great Lakes Association of College and University Residence Halls, and Illinois Residence Hall Association. Charle Cherry was named the Advisor of the Year by the Illinois Residence Hall Association. Lauren Teso-Warner was named the Supervisor of the Year for SPS, and Outstanding Professional for Student Affairs. Dan Pedersen received the Dr. John E. "Jack" Collins Distinguished Service Award from the Great Lakes Association of College and University Housing Officers.

HIGHLIGHTS

- Launched the online check-in application which allows residence hall students to complete the check-in process on a mobile device up to 24 hours prior to their arrival.
- Provided 53 housing scholarships to assist students, with a value of \$115,500.
- Upgraded Neptune facility during FY17/18, spending \$4.4 million on various projects in the Neptune complex that refurbished student rooms in Neptune West, revitalized the dining center, upgraded public lounges, renovated restroom/showers and repurposed the Trident Lounge.
- Installed new washers/dryers across campus.
- Responded to 2,815 calls to the ResTech Helpdesk resulting in 1,943 trouble tickets.
- Logged and responded to over 1,900 phone calls to the Housing and Residential Services Administration Office.
- Created a safer living environment by locking residence hall entrances 24 hours a day, which was met with strong student approval, and helped promote greater student persistence.



MILITARY AND POST-TRADITIONAL STUDENT SERVICES

MISSION STATEMENT

Military and Post-Traditional Student Services (MPTSS) serves as a central resource center for our unique and diverse population of students at NIU. By developing student-centered programming, we enhance the learning environment and develop a culture of inclusion for all military and post-traditional students.

The academic year of 2017-18 was a year of meeting opportunity for Military and Post-Traditional Student Services. MPTSS focused on programming for our varied population. In an office with three full-time staff members, three graduate assistants and six student workers, we continued to offer a steady stream of programming each month, meet the immediate housing needs of students and the financial needs of student veterans.

MPTSS continued to excel in collaborating with Student Affairs and Academic Affairs, and has intentionally reached out to faculty in a variety of ways. From orientation to graduation, MPTSS works to develop programs that will help students achieve their goals. MPTSS collaborated with Orientation and Family Connections to have sessions specifically geared for incoming student veterans. We also spoke at the Commuter Life Presentation and at the Transfer Student Success forum. These orientation programs allowed us to deliver a consistent message to our students and ensure that they were aware of the resources we have available to them. It is our firm belief that we can provide the daily resources to alleviate student stress, resulting in an enhanced academic experience. MPTSS also collaborated with the Division of Enrollment Management, Marketing and Communications, and the Office of Undergraduate Admissions to have our first Community College Day for Student Veterans. This event brought student veterans to campus from our neighboring junior and community colleges to get insight on the student veteran community here at NIU.

HIGHLIGHTS

- Actively collaborated with Counseling and Consultation Services and the Office of Student Engagement and Experiential Learning to conduct Breaking Barriers – a support group for first-generation college students. The group combined social gatherings with specific learning outcomes. The group had guest speakers ranging from Financial Aid and Scholarship, NIU Libraries, Career Services and various faculty members.
- Enhanced academic partnerships such as working the Honors College and College of Business to ensure that students attending our Facts and Snacks Workshop series received the appropriate extracurricular credit. Also, collaborated with panel discussions that included representation from Career Services, First- and Second-Year Experience and various academic departments. Guest speakers included professors from the College of Business.
- Honored graduates and faculty and staff of NIU who made a difference in the careers of several post-traditional students at our Celebration Ceremony. Staff included members from Student Conduct, Latino and Latin American Studies, Police and Public Safety, and the College of Liberal Arts and Sciences.
- Worked with Career Services' director of internships and external relations to secure vendors for inaugural Veterans Job Fair.
- Collaborated with Academic Diversity, Equity and Inclusion to facilitate multiple conversations on diversity and equity with student organization presidents and treasurers.



RECREATION AND WELLNESS

MISSION STATEMENT

University Recreation and Wellness supports personal and academic success by providing outstanding recreation and educational experiences that are inclusive, stimulating and encourage a lifelong pursuit of wellness. The department fosters community cohesiveness by facilitating opportunities for engagement, leadership, development and collaboration.

Recreation and Wellness (RecWell) contributed to the university and division mission, goals and strategic plan by supporting efforts in diversity, leadership and service. Diversity training and inclusive programming initiatives included expanding student employment training to include a module on diversity and the Fitness Program offering Small-Group Training, which assisted three Saudi Iranian women.

Student engagement and leadership was enhanced by offering internship experiences that were mutually beneficial for the department and the students to engage outside of the classroom in learning opportunities. Sport Club members gained leadership skills through various presentations on topics that included budgeting/funding requests, compliance with policies, and acting as a liaison between their peers and the university. Additionally, Wellness Peer Educator students were offered leadership opportunities by developing and implementing programs relating to health topics.

Service was another area of concentration. The Sport Clubs Program increased its community service hours participation by 338% (FY18 = 807 hours compared to FY17 = 184). Outdoor Adventures continued to engage students in various community service programs that included Earth Day activities, Clean the Kish and promotion of Leave No Trace principles during all adventure trips.

These contributions to the university and division missions, goals and strategic plans have enhanced the experiences of student employees, patrons and the community. By creating opportunities for students to be engaged, refine leadership skills, promote diversity and act in service to others, RecWell continues to develop meaningful opportunities for students to succeed at NIU.

HIGHLIGHTS

- Created a variety of Free Fitness Friday classes to inspire non-users to participate and members to try different class formats. There were a total of 147 participants, averaging 12 participants per session.
- Collaborated with the Division of Enrollment Management, Marketing and Communications to develop a sub-brand for the department, created program area brands that correlated with the department's brand (e.g., BeWell, EatWell, MoveWell, PlayWell, TrekWell) and developed templates for paper and digital media for each program area. RecWell received feedback from the campus community that the marketing materials were noticed far more often when compared to previous years.
- Developed student employee positions to serve as Wellness Crew members which helped expand educational outreach efforts to students. Expanded scope by broadening presentation topics to include all seven dimensions of Wellness. Reached 2,792 students during the academic year.
- Intervened early with intramural teams who scored below a 3.0 sportsmanship rating by informing them that unsportsmanlike behavior is unacceptable. Staff witnessed a significant decrease in second time offenders when compared to previous years.



STUDENT CONDUCT

MISSION STATEMENT

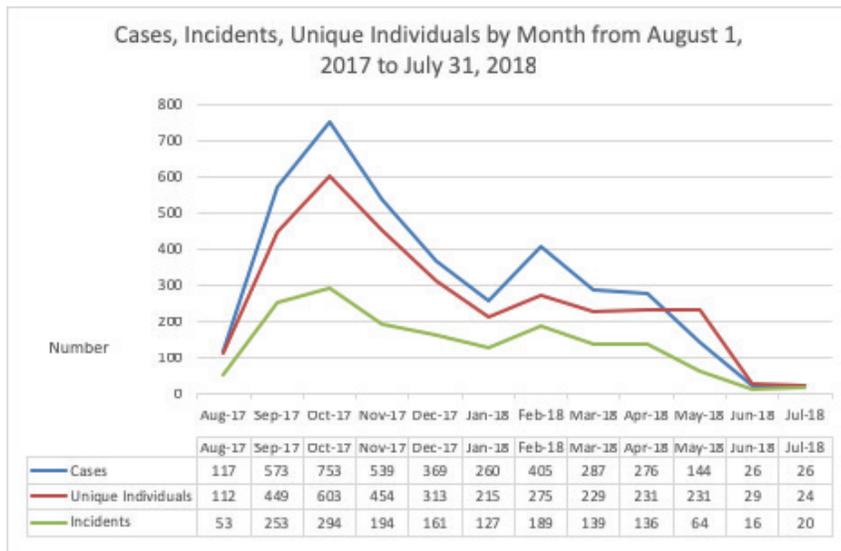
Student Conduct assists students, staff and faculty in maintaining an environment conducive to learning by promoting student engagement through learning, responsible behavior, healthy critical decision-making and upholding our community standards.

The Student Conduct (SC) office offered students educational opportunities for personal growth and values clarification by providing a fair and responsive resolution of each student conduct case. While consistent and equitable treatment in the disciplinary process is another goal, each individual case is handled based on the particular situation. Toward that end, Student Conduct was guided by the following principles:

- Educate our students on how they may gain insight into the reasons and consequences of their behavior, learn self-discipline and accept the responsibilities of membership in the university community.
- Preserve the health and safety of the university community.
- Protect the integrity of the institution.
- Address students' unacceptable behavior and, when possible, reparations and reconciliation to the community are provided.

HIGHLIGHTS

- Achieved recognition for the excellence of SC staff through several avenues – the Outstanding New Professional; the Outstanding Professional; SPS Certificate of Recognition; and a nomination for the Ruth Haddock Administrative Professional Award of Excellence.
- Served NIU during FY18 by finding 919 students “Responsible,” for violations of the Student Code of Conduct, while 63 students were repeat offenders.
- Worked with restorative justice principles to address and repair the relationship to the community. Some of the sanctions issued included 259 referred to substance abuse assessments, 159 to educational programs and 26 to anger intervention workshop.



Incidents by Month – Representation of Cases, Incidents, Unique Individuals for FY18.

Summary: Events broken down by number of cases, number of incidents and number of unique individuals based on the incident date of the case occurring during the period of August 1, 2017 to July 31, 2018 gives a monthly average over the year of 315 cases, 264 unique individuals and 137 incidents. The high of 753 cases with 603 unique individuals resulted in 294 incidents in October 2017. Meanwhile, there were 26 cases with 24 unique individuals resulting in 20 incidents in July 2018 and 26 cases with 29 unique individuals resulting in 16 incidents in June 2018.

STUDENT INVOLVEMENT AND LEADERSHIP DEVELOPMENT

MISSION STATEMENT

Student Involvement and Leadership Development (SILD) is dedicated to engaging students and the university community in campus life through intentional programs and resources that facilitate holistic development.

Service: SILD demonstrated NIU's commitment to student-centered service through its work overseeing the Huskie Food Pantry. SILD assumed responsibility of the Huskie Food Pantry in June 2016 and, with support from the campus community, expanded weekly operations, hired student interns, hosted multiple fundraisers and increased the volunteer force to include numerous departments from the Student Experience Team (SET).

Campus Activities Board: CAB staff and student leaders provided many opportunities for student engagement through consistent programming and activities. CAB has also provided leadership opportunities through general positions that serve as internships for student leaders as well as leadership retreats to help students grow as leaders. Additionally, CAB served as a host site for a Counseling, Adult and Higher Education course on assessment for a group of three graduate students.

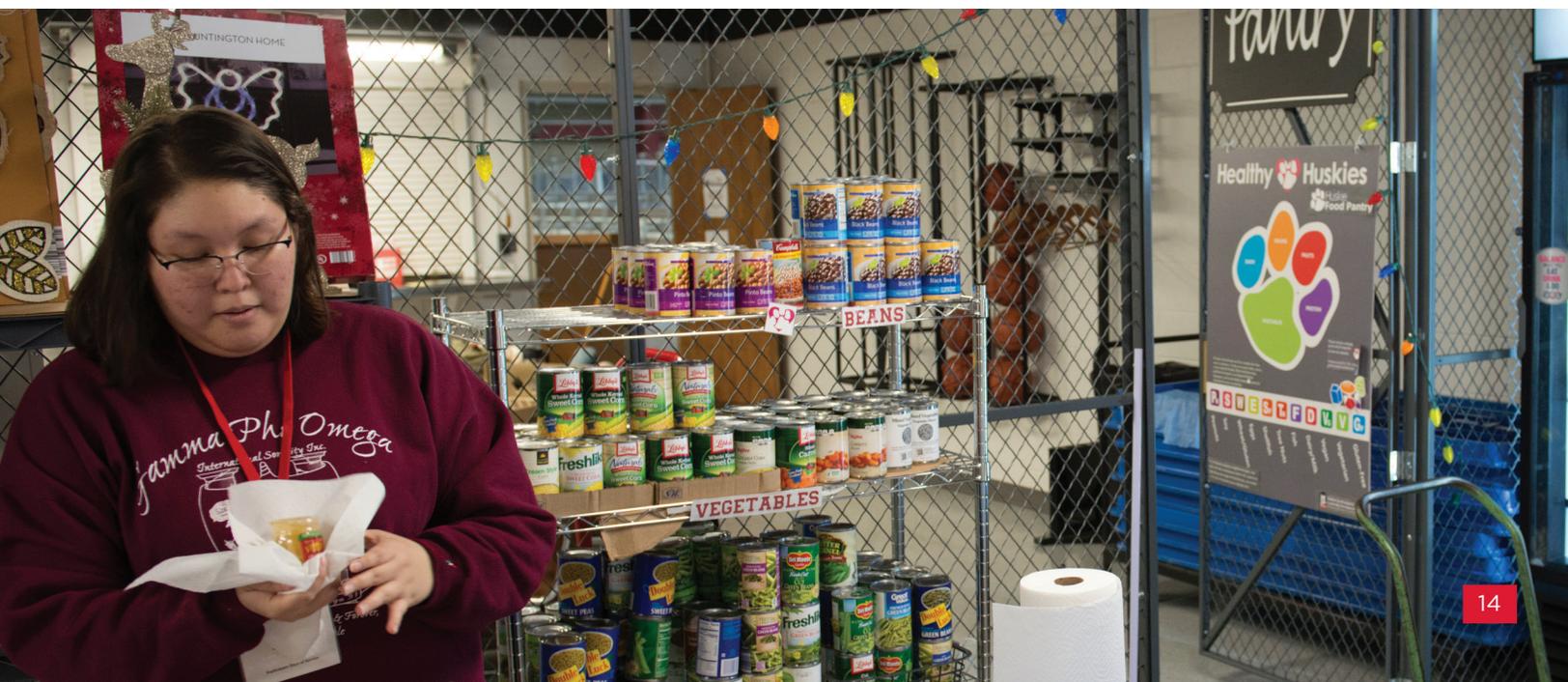
Fraternity and Sorority Life: Staff members worked diligently to partner with student leaders from this community to edit the off-campus social events policy to be approved by the associate vice president for Student Affairs and dean of students for future implementation.

Leadership: SILD staff provided hundreds of opportunities for students to engage outside of the classroom. We graduated 3 additional Leadership Academy members in spring 2017 and honored them at the annual Kevin D. Knight Leadership Awards ceremony.

SILD: Huskie Link continues to be an effective tool in streamlining event registration for student organizations resulting in an increase in registered on-campus social events. FY18 experienced an increase of 70 total registered events without alcohol (520 FY18 vs. 450 FY17).

HIGHLIGHTS

- Distributed 99,000 pounds of food to 2,874 visitors through the Huskie Food Pantry, engaging 187 volunteers for a total of 1,600 volunteer hours.
- Engaged over 700 students, faculty, staff and alumni volunteers with the campus and DeKalb community.
- Hosted Campus Activities Board events where over 3,000 students participated or attended.
- Increased the all-Greek GPA by 0.05 from the beginning of FY17.
- Served on DeKalb Leadership Symposium and First Impressions Count community committee on behalf of NIU. These events attracted students from NIU, Kishwaukee College and DeKalb High School, as well as professional leaders from local nonprofit organizations, the City of DeKalb and NIU.
- Expanded formal relationship with the College of Business to provide specific leadership opportunities for female student leaders (coupled with the financial assistance of an NIU donor).



STUDENTS' LEGAL ASSISTANCE

MISSION STATEMENT

The mission of Students' Legal Assistance is to provide the best legal assistance possible to students at NIU. The program was born of the idea that it is vitally important to make available legal information and advice to the thousands of NIU students, who, because of economic incapacity, would otherwise be unable to participate in the due process system. Assistance includes advice and consultation, legal advocacy and, in appropriate cases, court representation.

The core-function of Students' Legal Assistance (SLA) is to provide services to students that allow the university to be as effective as possible in educating students. This office met with 736 students in FY18 in an effort to help them persist in their education by providing essential legal information, advice and representation to students who, because of economic instability, would be unable to participate in the legal due process system. This number is lower than in past years, but seems to be reflective of the overall decreased student enrollment.

SLA provides graduate assistantships, enhancing and complementing the efforts of the law school, to educate students in the practical aspect of lawyering. The graduate assistants fully participate in the operation of this department. They assist in analyzing cases, interviewing clients, researching law, developing case strategies and are exposed to the practice of law in a law firm setting. This practical internship training allows the graduate assistants to be more employable and more productive members of the legal community. Through these efforts, since FY15, each senior graduate assistant from SLA has obtained full-time employment in the legal field within three months of passing the bar exam.

Students' Legal Assistance also helps students to fully utilize their education by assisting those who require expungements and sealing of records to do so, therefore, allowing a minimization of the impact of poor behavior choices on employment prospects. If this service were not provided, some students needing to meet licensure requirements would not be able to use their education.

HIGHLIGHTS

- Appointed to the board of directors for Prairie State Legal Services, a legal aid organization with 35 offices throughout northern Illinois (director).
- Presented general legal information to two classes at DeKalb High School.
- Continued educating students on student loan forgiveness programs.
- Hired a full-time office manager.
- Obtained employment by the senior graduate assistants with the LaSalle County State's Attorney's Office and with the Illinois Appellate Court for the Second District.
- Achieved a favorable resolution of a suit involving the Student Association.
- Achieved a favorable resolution for tenants involving a major property owner regarding full reimbursement of the security deposit along with additional compensation.
- Appeared in court 497 times to provide legal representation to students.

