



Benchworks
by Elentra

HOUSING CASE STUDY

LAFAYETTE COLLEGE

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Lafayette College is one of three winners of the 2023 Benchworks Assessment and Impact Award for housing for high survey scores related to satisfaction with student's sense of community and overall satisfaction. With its goal to guide students as they embrace a new community, Lafayette's Residence Life department has implemented programs to increase student connections and have more face-to-face, personalized interactions that establish a holistic housing experience.

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We make decisions not just on this year's data but also on the greater story. **This is how we focus our efforts to create positive change.**

JULIE MULE | *Senior Associate Director of Residence Life*

HOW THEY USED DATA

AREAS OF FOCUS



Everyone Contributes to a Sense of Belonging

- Share RA/Custodial staff schedules to create a familiar, comfortable atmosphere
- Encourage formal and informal interactions so everyone knows one another
- Offer assistance to students in need even if it's not a res life question
- Increase interactions with professional staff in and out of the residence halls



Advance a Holistic Student Experience

- Require face-to-face RA/student connections early in the semester
- Use early interactions and RA weekly reports to personalized support
- Break down housing processes into digestible pieces and offer drop-in hours
- Assess ongoing needs by checking-in and checking-up on residents



Cultivate Connections During the Pandemic

- Create small student groups for regular, virtual get-togethers "Zoom Mates"
- Utilize Zoom Mate connections as a starting point for room assignments and neighbor requests (i.e. returning freshman who were remote during the pandemic)
- Invite active remote students to campus for a personalized orientation day