



Benchworks
by Elentra



HOUSING CASE STUDY

UNIVERSITY OF AKRON

The
University
of Akron

University of Akron is one of three winners of the 2023 Benchworks Assessment and Impact Award in housing for high survey scores related to diverse interactions. With its goal to educate residents about different cultures, Akron's Department of Residence Life and Housing has used student feedback to create programming that shifts diversity, equity, and inclusion to an everyday experience, promotes impactful conversations by bolstering RA training, and provides diverse activities that matter to its student body.



Qualitative data helps us gather information about what programming our students are interested in and make decisions on RA training content. As a result, we have official DEI programming that is inclusive and educational.

TAYLOR EDINGTON | *Residence Life Coordinator*

HOW THEY USED DATA



WHAT THEY DID



Shift The Culture

- Formalize diversity, equity, and inclusion as part of students' everyday experience
- Institute formal programming requirements each semester
- Engage students in group and one-on-one conversations
- Collaborate with campus partners who also work in the residence halls



Revise RA Training and Programming

- Challenge students to think outside the box about DEI experiences
- Provide additional DEI training so RAs could have more impactful conversations
- Highlight diverse cultural celebrations throughout the year through activities
- Utilize established resources in new, innovative ways



Increase Student Involvement

- Involve residence hall student organizations in programming
- Deliver student-sponsored activities that promote diversity
- Provide a platform for students to share their experiences and cultures
- Mesh student programming with residence life programming