



FORT HAYS STATE
UNIVERSITY

Living, Learning, and Leading Through L3: A First-Year Leadership Learning Community

Dr. Brett L. Bruner, Director of Transition & Student Conduct
Fort Hays State University

NASPA Student Leadership Programs Knowledge Community



- Learning Outcomes
- Key Terminology
- What? Understanding the Institution & Historical Areas of Growth
- So What? The Learning Community Approach at FHSU & L3
- Now What? Results & Lessons Learned



Learning Outcomes

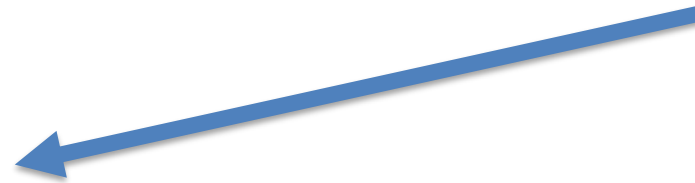
As a result of participating in this live briefing, participants will:

- Articulate 1 reason for and 1 benefit of institutions intentionally cultivating leadership development potential in first-year students.
- Define “learning community” and “transition” utilizing the Learning Community Association’s (2017) and NODA: Association for Orientation, Transition, and Retention in Higher Education’s (2012) definitions, respectively



Key Terminology

- Orientation:
- Transition:
- Retention:





Key Terminology

- **Transition:** the process students go through (typically lasting up to 1 year) when entering a particular institution of higher education and/or entering the same institution for a new purpose.

Source: NODA Task Force to Explore the Definition of Orientation, Transition & Retention (2012).



- **Learning Community:**
 - A curricular structure characterized by a cohort of students participating in an intentionally designed integrative study of an issue or theme through connected courses, experiences, and resources.
 - A community of learners participating in a residential learning community that intentionally integrates learning through curricular and co-curricular education in a residential experience.

Source: Learning Communities Association (2017)



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What?



FHSU
Orientation & Transition

FORESIGHT 2020

A 10-Year Strategic Agenda for the State's Public Higher Education System

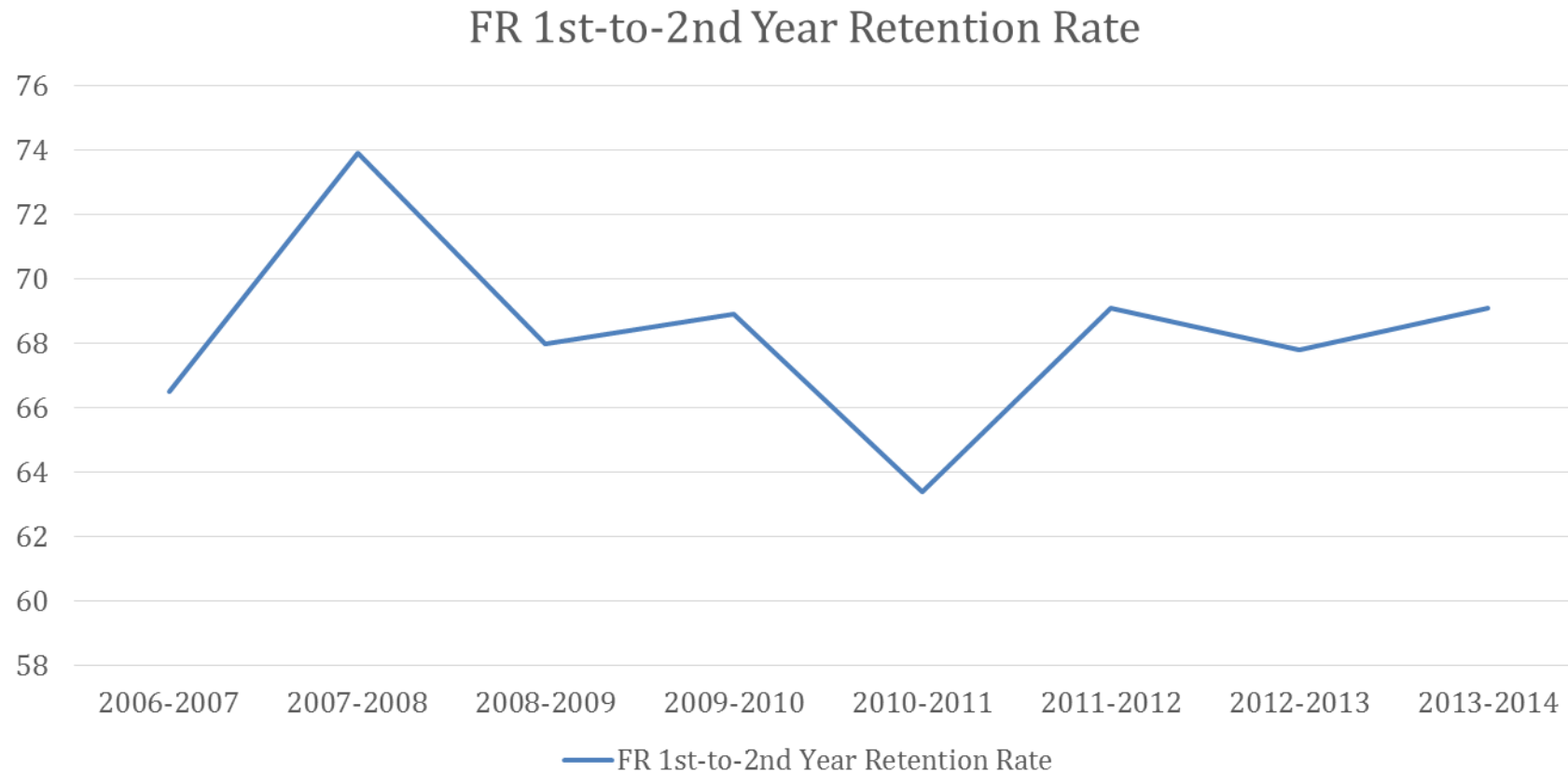


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What?





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So What?



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So What? Learning Communities

Artful Minds (2017)

Athletes Today, Leaders Tomorrow (2015)

BeFit: BeneFit from Wellness (2012)

Earth Rise! (2015)

Everybody's Business (2013)

Galen Initiative (2014)

Global Justice (2013)

Go Global! (2011)

Heart & Mind: Philosophizing About the Arts
(2012)

Health Professions (2014)

Help Starts Here (2016)

Ideas Change the World (2012)

Imaging with Tiger Pride (2017)

L3: Live. Learn. Lead. (2010)

Let's Talk (2017)

Nightingale Power (2014)

Opportunity Through Education (2013)

Outdoor Adventure & Wide World of Sports
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Pls: Psych Investigators (2011)

Students Without Borders (2016)

Tiger Traditions (2016)

Zeneration One (2017)



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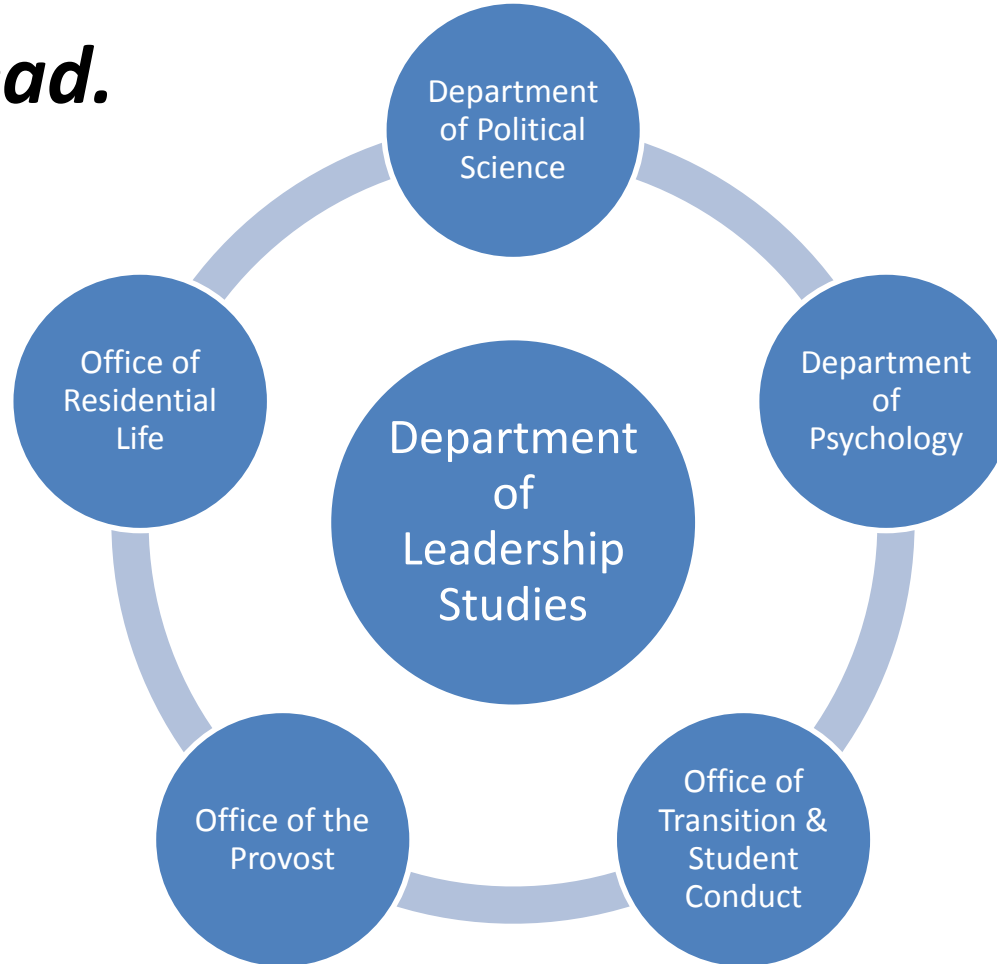
Tiger Traditions (2016)

Zeneration One (2017)





L3: Live. Learn. Lead.





- Guiding Principles
 - Culture of Cohesion
 - Student-to-Institution Bond (the “Cheers Effect”)
 - Integration of the Curriculum



L3: Live, Learn, Lead

Description:

Description: L3 is for you if you want to be a leader and make a difference in the world. You will learn about leadership and put that learning into action through various service and leadership activities.

Fall 2017 Courses:

Introduction to Leadership Concepts

- *Fulfills an organizational leadership degree requirement and a leadership studies certificate requirement

Current Political Issues

- *Fulfills a general education requirement

Freshman Seminar

- *Fulfills a university requirement

Spring 2018 Courses:

Social Psychology

- *Fulfills a general education requirement

Issues in Leadership Studies

- *Fulfills an organizational leadership degree requirement

Signature Activity:

Service Project and Leadership Training Trip in the spring.

Other Activities:

Local community service projects, leadership speakers, movie nights, s'mores fest, football game tailgating, StrengthsQuest workshop, and social and learning activities.

Quick-Reference:

Students interested in leadership development and service.

Contact Information:

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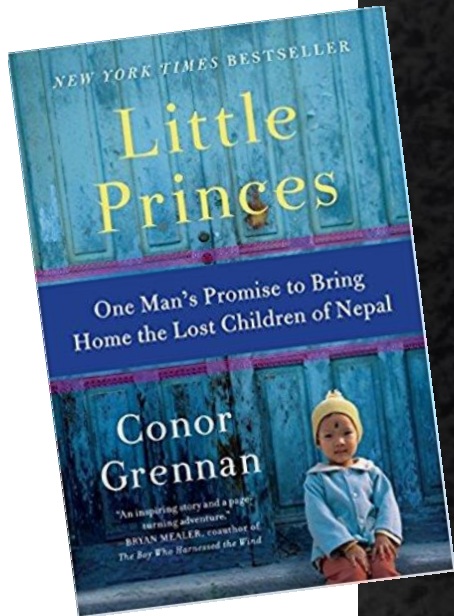
Thematic



Leadership



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Thematic



Leadership

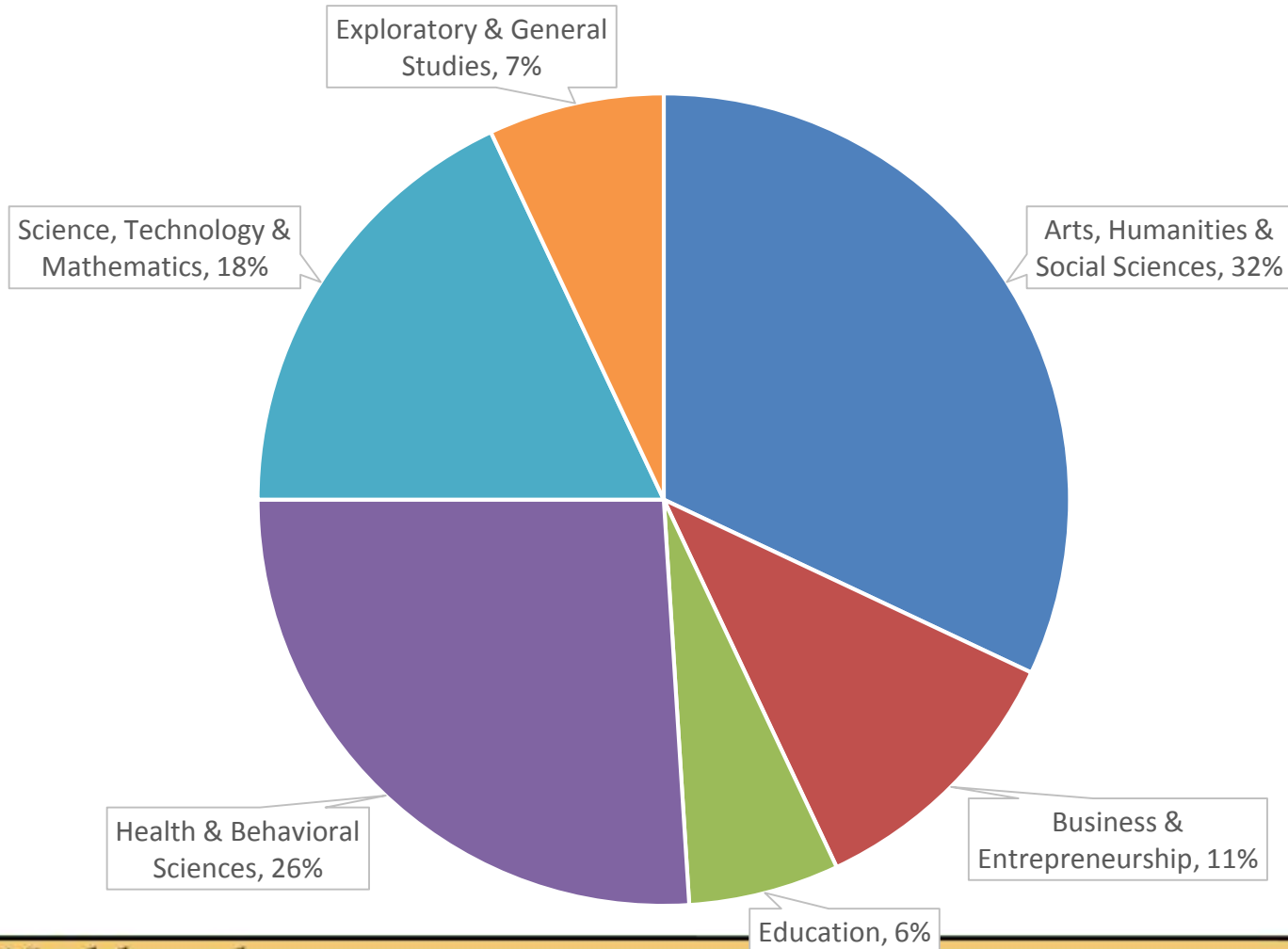


So What? L3





Participants by College Major





1. Leadership Studies (*Arts, Humanities & Social Sciences*)
2. Biology (*Science, Technology & Mathematics*)
3. Management (*Business & Entrepreneurship*)
4. Early Childhood & Elementary Education (*Education*)
5. Health & Human Performance (*Health & Behavioral Sciences*)
6. Psychology (*Health & Behavioral Sciences*)
7. Nursing (*Health & Behavioral Sciences*)
8. Criminal Justice (*Arts, Humanities & Social Sciences*)
9. Agriculture (*Science, Technology & Mathematics*)
10. Exploratory (*Exploratory & General Studies*)



Now What? Results

Cohort	L3 Learning Community (<i>n</i> = 30) 1 st -to-2 nd Year Retention Rate	All-First-Year Students 1 st -to-2 nd Year Retention Rates
Fall 2010	77%	65%
Fall 2011	77%	69%
Fall 2012	79%	68%
Fall 2013	77%	69%
Fall 2014	75%	77%
Fall 2015	86%	73%



Now What? Results

- Stronger likelihood to form peer networks and communities of support
- Engagement with and receive mentorship from faculty members



Now What? Lessons Learned

- It takes time to build.
- Establish clear role & responsibilities.
- Should the Faculty Coordinator be an instructor during the first year?
- Engage parents & families throughout the process.
- Expand the recruitment net far & wide.
- Curriculum integration is key.
- Engage students in the planning processes.



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