



Nebraska Collegiate Consortium To Reduce High-Risk Drinking Mini-Grant Program Final Report

Nebraska Wesleyan University Off-Campus Living Guide 2009-2010

Project Manager: Geri Cotter, Assistant Dean of Students

The object of this grant-funded project is to reduce by 10%, over three years, the number of NWU students cited by the Lincoln Police Department for “Wild Parties”, i.e., Maintaining a Disorderly House, Inmate of a Disorderly House, Providing Alcohol to a Minor, etc.

In pursuant of this objective, 315 booklets were printed and distributed to 315 students living off campus at an address other than their home of record.

Nebraska Wesleyan University has a three-year residency policy, meaning that students are required to live on campus for 6 semesters unless they:

- Live with their parent or guardian within 30 miles of the campus
- Have reached their 21st birthday by the first day of classes of the fall semester
- Live with a spouse
- Are enrolled for fewer than 12 credit hours
- Request a special exception due to financial exigency
- Request a special exception due to health issues
- Request a special exception due to an extreme or emergency condition requiring extraordinary action.

Currently, 48.63% of seniors, 28.35% of juniors, 12.37% of sophomores and 10.65% of first year students live off campus. The majority of first and second year students not living on campus live with their parents. The majority of juniors and seniors not living on campus reside independently in apartments or houses. It is this second group that comprised the majority of our target audience.

Using a list provided by the NWU Registrar’s Office students residing at an address other than their home of record were identified. Each student received a copy of the booklet, “NWU Off-Campus Living Guide”. A letter from the Assistant Dean of Students accompanied each booklet (see attachment). The letter expressed hope that the student’s experience living off campus was going well and specifically referred them to pages 11 through 17 of the booklet. These particular pages discuss community standards and consequences regarding hosting social events in Lincoln neighborhoods, provide suggestions for safely hosting a party, discuss signs of alcohol poisoning and provide emergency phone numbers. The beginning of the social host section of the booklet was also marked with a “See Notes” arrow.

Approximately 27% of the students living off campus have a conditional exception to the campus residency rule. These students are required to meet regularly with a member of the

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Student Life staff. These meetings provide an opportunity to refer to the booklet, affirm that the students in question received the booklet and reinforce the information contained therein. To date, the information in the booklet regarding the consequences of alcohol abuse has been well received during those meetings.

The booklet, "NWU Off Campus Living Guide", combines information contained in an earlier Nebraska Wesleyan publication that primarily discussed landlord-tenant responsibilities, information from a publication distributed by Southeast Community College, Lincoln, NE, information from the University of Nebraska-Lincoln ASUN website "House Parties: A Guide by Students for Students", and information from Lincoln/Lancaster County Fire, Housing, and Public Safety Codes.

October 14, 2009

Dear Nebraska Wesleyan Student,

I hope that your experience as an off-campus resident is going well. To assist you as you move from the campus residential community to a more independent environment, the NWU Campus Coalition on Alcohol Awareness and Education has developed the "NWU Guide to Off-Campus Living". It contains information regarding leases, tenant and landlord responsibilities, safety, and utilities.

Beginning on page 11, the booklet also provides information about community standards and consequences regarding the hosting of parties in Lincoln neighborhoods. Beyond that, it provides suggestions for hosting a social gathering, discusses signs of alcohol poisoning and provides emergency phone numbers.

You may not be aware, but the Lincoln Police Department sends NWU lists of individuals who have been cited for "Maintaining a disorderly house", or for being an "Inmate of a disorderly house", etc.. Since violating a local, state or federal law is also a violation of our Code of Student Conduct, the individual in question is then required to go through our campus judicial system as well as the city/county judicial system.

It is my hope that this publication will provide information that will assist you in being a good tenant, a good neighbor, a contributing member of our Lincoln community and a positive representative of Nebraska Wesleyan University.

Thank you for taking a moment to look through this resource. Feel free to call on me if there is any way in which I might be of service to you.

Cordially,

Geri Cotter
Assistant Dean of Students
Nebraska Wesleyan University

Enclosure