Executive Summary

Blueprint for Academic Excellence Green Quad AY2020-2021

Highlights

This fall semester we offered 3 Green Quad specific University 101 sections (56 students), hosted a fall retreat (24 students attended a weekend focused on sustainability and leadership), offered service-learning opportunities (8 hosted this fall), and developed avenues to connect with the Faculty Principal (70 students). Additionally, we have been developing our Green Scholars Program and Green Quad Study Abroad opportunity for the spring semester.

Mission Statement

Green Quad is a sustainable living-learning community that seeks to connect and develop students while building a rich community in which students incorporate sustainability into their daily knowledge and habits. Green Quad students will leave with the confidence and know-how to influence their peers and impact their world.

Sustainable: meeting the needs of the present without compromising the ability of future generations to meet their own needs (Our Common Future, 1987).

Updated: 02/13/2018

Vision Statement

Through rich partnerships across all divisions of the University and throughout our community, Green Quad strives to be a national model for sustainable living-learning programs from which students undoubtedly leave with the knowledge and confidence to make a lasting impact on their world.

Values Statement

Updated: 02/13/2018

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Goals for the previous Academic Year.

Goal 1 - Retain Students by Connecting Them to USC Opportunities

Goal Statement Linkage to University Goal Alignment with Mission, Vision, and	Connect resident students to USC opportunities and activities both as part of the living and learning community and outside of the community to cultivate a sense of belonging to the University. • Spurring Knowledge and Creation • Building Inclusive and Inspiring Communities Aligns with mission, vision, and values.
Values Status	Completed successfully
	Completed successfully
Action Plan	This is a multi year goal and is sought to be achieved each academic year.
Achievements	 Through 1:1 coaching (244 meetings) we provided connections to OUR, Career Center, Student Success Center, USC Connect, Leadership & Service Center, etc. Partnered with the Office of Sustainability to co-host Green Networking Breakfast (112 attendees) and Green Career Fair (73 attendees) providing opportunities for students to connect with on-campus and community opportunities to further their professional development. (4) Sustainable Magellan Research Awards provided; (9) Experiential Education Awards; (4) GeoScholar Grants provided. Successful GeoScholar Grant Program/SEOE partnership; results presented at RCS in November and submitted to the Journal of Geological Education for peerreview. Increas in Green Quad student engagement from Spring 2017 to Spring 2018. (77.9%) attended at least one event Spring 18 vs (45.95%) for Spring 2017. Green Scholars Program engaged (44) GQ students in a total of (253) hours of service and average (4.5) sustainability events per person.
Resources Utilized	
Goal Continuation	This is a multi year goal and is sought to be achieved each academic year.
Goal Upcoming Plans	
Resources Needed	

Goal Notes

Obais - Looking Dack	
-	eraction between Students and Faculty Principal
Goal Statement	Enhance resident students' living and learning experience by encouraging interactions and connections with Faculty Principal.
Linkage to University Goal	 Educating the Thinkers and Leaders of Tomorrow Spurring Knowledge and Creation
Alignment with Mission, Vision, and Values	Aligns with mission, vision, and values.
Status	Completed successfully
Action Plan	
Achievements	 We hosted a total of 244 1:1 meetings with students which included meetings with FP and referrals to FP FP taught a section of Green Quad U101; forming lasting relationships with 19 students. FP also taught U401 providing a bookend experience for many 2014 GQ students. FP interacted with all 6 U101 classes, introducing and connecting to nearly 120 GQ students. FP taught Sustainability Seminar for 16 GQ students, providing high-quality weekly interaction and sustainability knowledge. FP taught Sustainability Seminar for 16 GQ students, providing high-quality weekly interaction and sustainability knowledge. FP hosted students at his farm (over 40 students in total); provided Cup of Joe on Fridays for casual student interaction (average 10 students/event); provided Sustainability Talks for students to learn from FP and his students (average 10 students/event). FP was recipient of 2018 John N. Garner award, acknowledging his excellence in teaching.
Resources Utilized	
Goal Continuation	This is a multi year goal and is sought to be achieved each academic year.
Goal Upcoming Plans	
Resources Needed	
Goal Notes	

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Goal 3 - Promote Acad	emics Through Supportive Living and Learning Environment
Goal Statement	Provide supportive living and learning environments that promote academic attainment of resident students.
Linkage to University Goal	 Educating the Thinkers and Leaders of Tomorrow Spurring Knowledge and Creation Building Inclusive and Inspiring Communities
Alignment with Mission, Vision, and Values	Aligns with mission, vision, and values.
Status	Completed successfully
Action Plan	
Achievements	 Offered 6 sections of University 101 to 116 GQ students; provided academic support in the classroom and connected faculty principal and staff for continued support in Spring semester. Through 244 1:1 coaching with students, we discussed academic goals, provided resources such as tutoring and SI, helped students develop study groups, and found ways to connect students with similar majors. Supported 4 students through GeoScholar grant; providing 1:1 connection with FP and group gatherings to aid in academics. Collaborated with USC Career Center to put on two "Pathways to Professions" events that engaged students of different majors in professions that aligned with their studies. Collaborated with Student Success Center to offer Marine Science, Chemistry, and Math Tutoring in GQ - now an official satellite space for tutoring.
Resources Utilized	
Goal Continuation	This is a multi year goal and is sought to be achieved each academic year.
Goal Upcoming Plans	
Resources Needed	
Goal Notes	

Cool 4 Dromoto Sustr	-
Goal Statement	Provide opportunities, utilizing academic and student affairs partnerships, to advance students' knowledge and habits as it relates to sustainability.
Linkage to University Goal	 Educating the Thinkers and Leaders of Tomorrow Spurring Knowledge and Creation Building Inclusive and Inspiring Communities
Alignment with Mission, Vision, and Values	Aligns with mission, vision, and values.
Status	Completed successfully
Action Plan	
Achievements	 Provided weekly service opportunities in the Sustainable Carolina Garden; 2 GQ alum serves as Garden Guides (BTCM Peer Leader Experience). Piloted Sustainability Seminar which was a course taught in GQ that focused on sustainability education. Infused sustainability knowledge and habits into all of our fall and spring programming (77.9% engaged our programming)
Resources Utilized	
Goal Continuation	
Goal Upcoming Plans	
Resources Needed	
Goal Notes	

Goals for the current Academic Year.

Goal 1 - Promote Sustainability Knowledge and Habits

Goal StatementProvide opportunities, utilizing academic and student affairs partnerships, to advance students' knowledge and habits as relates to sustainability.Linkage to University Goal• Educating the Thinkers and Leaders of Tomorrow • Spurring Knowledge and Creation	
Building Inclusive and Inspiring Communities	
Alignment with Mission, Vision, and ValuesAligns with mission, vision, and values.	
Status Progressing as expected (multi-year goal)	
Action Plan	
 Achievements Provided sustainability-themed service-learning opportunities fall semester (8 service opportunities, 90% of student participated in service-learning felt they gained a better understanding of Sustainability). Provided 7 Adventures with Joe: each with a focus on sustainability. Integrated sustainability education into to 3 GQ University classes (56 students). Collaborated with the Office of Sustainability to host Gree Networking Breakfast and Green Career Fair (over 150 attendees). Coordinated Fall 2019 Retreat focused around sustainabil (24 students). Green Quad Staff advises 4 sustainability-focused clubs. Required sustainability training for residential mentors (1' RMs). Implemented a Green Quad mentorship program, C.S.A.P. "Cultivating Sustainability Ambassador Programs". It connecting sustainability opportunities (14 students). 	r 101 n ity 7 eects
Resources Utilized	
Goal Continuation	
Goal Upcoming Plans	
Resources Needed	
Goal Notes	

Goals - Real Time

Goal 2 - Encourage Int	eraction between Students and Faculty Principal	
Goal Statement	Enhance resident students' living and learning experience by encouraging interactions and connections with Faculty Principal.	
Linkage to University Goal	 Educating the Thinkers and Leaders of Tomorrow Spurring Knowledge and Creation 	
Alignment with Mission, Vision, and Values	Aligns with mission, vision, and values.	
Status	Progressing as expected (multi-year goal)	
Action Plan		
Achievements	 FP host 1:1's and out to lunch opportunities for students (conversations focus on research, academics, and goal setting). FP host multiple events throughout the year to connect with students (70 students have attended this fall). FP taught U101 for GQ students (19 students) in Fall 2019 and taught sustainability focused lessons for the Green Scholars (36 students) in the Spring semester. FP guest taught a lesson on marine science for fall 2019 Retreat (24 students). FB host test reviews for marine science students (25 students). FP has an outstanding presence in the GQ Living Learning Community and is available and present for students 5 days a week; this accessibility is unique and appreciated by students. 	
Resources Utilized		
Goal Continuation		
Goal Upcoming Plans		
Resources Needed		
Goal Notes		

Goals - Real Time

Goal 3 - Promote Academics Through Supportive Living and Learning Environments Goal Statement Provide supportive living and learning environments that promote academic attainment of resident students. Linkage to University Goal • Educating the Thinkers and Leaders of Tomorrow • Spurring Knowledge and Creation • Building Inclusive and Inspiring Communities Alignment with Mission, Vision, and Values Aligns with mission, vision, and values. Status Progressing as expected (multi-year goal) Action Plan • Offer 3 sections of GQ University 101 (56 students); giving students access to GQ faculty and staff as consistent support systems in their academics. • Provide weekly tutoring opportunities in the GQ Learning Center for high-fail classes. • Provide students). • Initiated a monthly Green Quad Leadership Team meetings to address how we can best support any students that we have an academic concern about. • Green Quad houses students that participate in the GeoScholar Program which provides financial and academic support for underrepresented students who have demonstrated financial need and are pursuing undergraduate degrees in the geosciences (21 students in total). • Offer Educational Grants, a scholarship to pay for expenses related to their academic experiences such as classes, conferences, study abroad and certificate programs (\$4,380 awarded last spring). • Invite outside guest speakers and professors in the field of sustainability to present and connect with students. (81 students for Fall 2019) Resources Utilized Goal Upcoming Plans Resources Needed	Cool 2 Dromoto Acod	amics Through Supportive Living and Learning Environment
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Goal Continuation Goal Upcoming Plans		 students access to GQ faculty and staff as consistent support systems in their academics. Provide weekly tutoring opportunities in the GQ Learning Center for high-fail classes. FP offers test review sessions to students taking marine science (25 students). Initiated a monthly Green Quad Leadership Team meetings to address how we can best support any students that we have an academic concern about. Green Quad houses students that participate in the GeoScholar Program which provides financial and academic support for underrepresented students who have demonstrated financial need and are pursuing undergraduate degrees in the geosciences (21 students in total). Offer Educational Grants, a scholarship to pay for expenses related to their academic experiences such as classes, conferences, study abroad and certificate programs (\$4,380 awarded last spring). Invite outside guest speakers and professors in the field of sustainability to present and connect with students. (81
Goal Upcoming Plans	Resources Utilized	
	Goal Continuation	
Resources Needed	Goal Upcoming Plans	
	Resources Needed	
Goal Notes	Goal Notes	

Goals - Real Time

Cool 4 Dotoin Studen	to by Connecting Them to UCC Opportunities
	ts by Connecting Them to USC Opportunities
Goal Statement	Connect resident students to USC opportunities and activities both as part of the living and learning community and outside of the community to cultivate a sense of belonging to the University.
Linkage to University Goal	Spurring Knowledge and CreationBuilding Inclusive and Inspiring Communities
Alignment with Mission, Vision, and Values	Aligns with mission, vision, and values.
Status	Progressing as expected (multi-year goal)
Action Plan	
Achievements	 During our two signature fall events (Welcome Home Dinner and Fall Equinox) we have a table fair that connects students to organizations and programs on campus (142 attendees). Green Quad Peer leaders (6 trained Green Quad alum) offer guided on campus service-learning opportunities to GQ residents. (8 offered in fall 2019). Hosted 3 sections of GQ U101 (56 students) which introduced students to a variety of involvement opportunities. Green Networking Breakfast and Green Career Fair hosted and introduced to a multitude of opportunities on an off-campus (over 150 attendees). C.S.A.P program (14 students) connects first-year Green Quad students with a trained Green Quad alum to focus on sustainability. Through intentional programming and relationship building, this program connects students to sustainability opportunities on campus and helps build a sense of belonging at the University of South Carolina.
Resources Utilized	
Goal Continuation	
Goal Upcoming Plans	
Resources Needed	
Goal Notes	

Goal 1 - Promote Acad	emics Through Supportive Living and Learning Environment
Goal Statement	Provide supportive living and learning environments that promote academic attainment of resident students.
Linkage to University Goal	 Educating the Thinkers and Leaders of Tomorrow Spurring Knowledge and Creation Building Inclusive and Inspiring Communities
Alignment with Mission, Vision, and Values	Aligns with mission, vision, and values.
Status	Extended to following Academic Year
Action Plan	 House students from the School of the Earth, Ocean, and Environment together in one building: support study groups, tutoring, etc. Offer more sections (6) of University 101 for GQ students, taught by GQ staff in the Fall of 2020. Continue to house and support GeoScholars Program (NSF grant-funded partnership). Host visiting scholars; facilitate student-faculty connections. Host in-house sustainability conference for GQ students. This offers an accessible way for our students to gain more knowledge in the field of sustainability.
Achievements	
Resources Utilized	
Goal Continuation	
Goal Upcoming Plans	
Resources Needed	
Goal Notes	

Goals - Looking Ahead

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Goal 2 - Retain Studen	ts by Connecting Them to USC Opportunities
Goal Statement	Connect resident students to USC opportunities and activities both as part of the living and learning community and outside of the community to cultivate a sense of belonging to the University.
Linkage to University Goal	 Educating the Thinkers and Leaders of Tomorrow Spurring Knowledge and Creation Building Inclusive and Inspiring Communities
Alignment with Mission, Vision, and Values	Aligns with mission, vision, and values.
Status	Progressing as expected (multi-year goal)
Action Plan	 Work more closely with the Resident Mentors to engage students within the community. Co-host Green Networking Breakfast, and Green Career Fair - providing opportunities for students to connect with experiences on and off-campus. Provide Sustainable Magellan and Experiential Education Scholarships to help students afford opportunities in research, study abroad and more. Continue the C.S.A.P. mentor program to help first-year students to connect with sustainability opportunities on campus. Maximize on GQ U101 and Green Scholars to connect students.
Achievements	
Resources Utilized	
Goal Continuation	
Goal Upcoming Plans	
Resources Needed	
Goal Notes	

Goals - Looking Ahead

Goal 3 - Promote Susta	ainability Knowledge and Habits
Goal Statement	Provide opportunities, utilizing academic and student affairs partnerships, to advance students' knowledge and habits as it relates to sustainability.
Linkage to University Goal	 Educating the Thinkers and Leaders of Tomorrow Spurring Knowledge and Creation Building Inclusive and Inspiring Communities
Alignment with Mission, Vision, and Values	Aligns with mission, vision, and values.
Status	Progressing as expected (multi-year goal)
Action Plan	 Continue to integrate sustainability knowledge to students in GQ U101 classes. Increase the number of GQ U101 classes offered from 3 sections to 6 sections. Continue sustainability education through Green Scholars Program. Continue to provide educational scholarships to students. Continue to transition students from our program into the Sustainable Carolina Leadership Program. Host an in-house sustainability conference facilitated by experts in the field.
Achievements	
Resources Utilized	
Goal Continuation	
Goal Upcoming Plans	
Resources Needed	
Goal Notes	

Goals - Looking Ahead

Goal 4 - Encourage Interaction between Students and Faculty Principal	
Goal Statement	Enhance resident students' living and learning experience by encouraging interactions and connections with Faculty Principal.
Linkage to University Goal	 Educating the Thinkers and Leaders of Tomorrow Spurring Knowledge and Creation
Alignment with Mission, Vision, and Values	Aligns with mission, vision, and values.
Status	Progressing as expected (multi-year goal)
Action Plan	 Continue to provide 1:1 opportunities for students to interact with FP Continue to refer students to FP to discuss academics, research, and general goals. FP will be teaching University 101 course in the Fall. FP will be co-teaching a sustainability seminar in Spring 2019. FP will serve as the trip leader for the Green Quad study abroad trip. Continue Adventures with Joe and Cup of Joe; continue to develop creative ways to connect students to Joe.
Achievements	
Resources Utilized	
Goal Continuation	
Goal Upcoming Plans	
Resources Needed	
Goal Notes	

Effective Programs or Initiatives

List your most effective programs/initiatives toward fulfillment of mission.

- Green Quad U101 Classes (engaged 56 students).
- Green Quad Service Learning Opportunities (8 service opportunities with 90% of students who participated in service-learning felt they gained a better understanding of Sustainability).
- FP interactions: Cup of Joe and Adventures with Joe (70 this fall semester).
- Green Scholars Program (engaged 36 students in semester-long sustainability experience and sustainability education).
- Green Networking Breakfast & Green Career Fair (over 150 attendees total, with students employers, community member, and campus partners present).

Program Launches

List any programs/initiatives that were newly launched during the Academic Year or any programs/initiatives you would like to launch in the coming year(s). Describe the program/initiatives, provide financial requirements (including additional staff), and academic year in which you would launch. What key performance indicators are you utilizing to track the success of this program?

- C.S.A.P. Mentorship Program: This fall we launched a mentorship program for first-year Green Quad students. They are mentored by a trained Green Quad alum that supports them in their transition to college and connects them to sustainability opportunities.
 - This will be measured by the number of times the mentors and mentees connect per month. Additionally, the participants engage in a pre and post assessment to see if they feel more connected to the campus and are involved in sustainability.
- Study Abroad: This May we will offering a credit-bearing study abroad experience.
 - This will be measured by daily journaling and pre and post-assessment to measure if students have a greater understanding of sustainability, academic pursuits, and global awareness.

Program Rankings

List any nationally ranked or external recognition during the Academic Year. For each, provide the formal name of the program followed by the name of the organization that issued the ranking, the date of notification, effective date range, and any other relevant information.

Initiatives and Fees

Initiatives

Describe any new initiatives your unit will need for the coming year.

Fees

List any new or changed fees that your unit has implemented or had to take on in the last academic year.

Community Perceptions

Describe how your unit assesses community perceptions of your engagement, and how the unit assesses the impact of community engagement on students, faculty, community and the institution. Provide specific findings.

- Led multiple Rocky Branch Watershed Clean-ups (10 students average) as part of our "Adopt a Stream" program.
- Working relationship with Department of Health and Environmental Control (DHEC) to provide internship and research opportunities for our residents.
- Serve on the board of Sustainable Midlands, a local nonprofit that addresses issues surrounding sustainability in the region.
- Columbia Resilience hosts monthly meetings at Green Quad that are open to the community and residents.
- Hosted local community members and employers at our Green Networking Breakfast and Green Career Fair; this continues to be a great way to connect with the local community and provide them with support from our stud

Internal Collaborations

List your Unit's most significant internal collaborations and multidisciplinary efforts that are internal to the University. Details should be omitted; list by name only.

- Office of Sustainability
- School of Earth, Ocean and Environment
- Office of Undergraduate Research
- USC Connect
- Career Center
- Other Faculty-Led Living Learning Communities

External Collaborations

List your Unit's most significant external collaborations and multidisciplinary efforts that are external to the University. Details should be omitted; list by name only.

- Rocky Branch Watershed
- Department of Health and Environmental Control (DHEC)
- Sustainable Midlands
- Columbia Resilience
- Sierra Club
- Post Landfill Action Network
- City Roots

Campus Climate and Inclusion

Activities the unit conducted that were designed to improve Campus, Climate, and Inclusion.

- Hosted a discussion group that was themed around "social sustainability". Social sustainability discusses how equity and inclusion are involved in sustainability. Interested students were sent a reading and or video around our designated themed prior to our discussion. Topics included indigenous land rights, sustainability in politics, gentrification etc. (100% of students that participated felt they strongly agreed and/or agreed they were exposed to new perspectives and gained knowledged in social sustainability and environmental justice).
- Sustainability Education with Social Sustainability component: facilitated to GQ 101 students; this includes dialogue about social equity and environmental justice. This is also part of our Green Scholar education (36 students).
- Supported and housed GeoScholars (21 students).

Concluding Remarks

Weaknesses and Plans for Improvement

What is your unit struggling with? What plans do you have to overcome the weakness that you have faced in the next academic year.

Spring semester continues to see a drop in attendance - though we have seen great success in focusing in on our engaged Green Scholar population.

The size of our community, as well as the lack of interest, can often be difficult to navigate: a vast majority of our students only live here because they like the apartment-style or its location on campus. Additionally, because of how the current roommate matching process (roommate preference is first), we ultimately end up with students in Green Quad who did not apply to live here. After looking at data this fall, we saw that this was the case for 114 students which is about 22% of our residents. This has raised many concerns for us and we have been contemplating removing roommate preference for the 2020-2021 academic year.

As unfortunate as it sounds, we have realized that we cannot continue to try to engage all 500 residents and instead need to identify ways to discover students that have the potential to engage. Our GQ U101 sessions, service-learning opportunities, and interactions with our faculty principal help with this; but continuing to identify students' willingness and capitalizing on that is key.

Another difficulty has been competing with not only other events occurring on campus but also events within our own residential community. We are working with our Area Coordinator to see more ways we can collaborate on events. It would be helpful if the curriculum that resident life h

Key Issues

Identify key issues or potential challenges your unit will encounter this coming year and the steps you plan on initiating.

Lack of attachment to the theme: Many of our residents are choosing to live here because of the apartment-style, location on campus and/or their preferred roommate wanted to live in Green Quad. Due to these factors, we have many students who do not value sustainability. Although this presents challenges, it does give us an opportunity to create awareness about sustainability to students who may not have been exposed otherwise.

Competing events occurring on campus and within our own residential hall.

Lack of engagement in the spring continues to be a problem; we have found that enrolling students in a specific program at the end of fall helps (i.e. Green Scholars Program), but this still is a key issue for us.

Quantitative Outcomes

Explain any surprises regarding data provided in the quantitative outcomes modules throughout this report.

• 8 service opportunities with 90% of students who participated in service-learning felt they

Concluding Remarks

gained a better understanding of Sustainability.

- 14 students engaged in the mentorship program (C.S.A.P.).
- 142 attendees to 2 Fall signature events (Welcome Home Dinner and Fall Equinox).
- 36 students participate in Green Scholars.
- Offered 3 Green Quad U101 courses, 56 students engaged.
- Over 100 attendees at Green Networking and Green Career Fair.
- 15 Faculty Principal events hosted throughout the year.
- 36 students participated in Green Scholars.
- 56 students engaged in GQ University 101 section.
- 128 attendees at Green Networking and Green Career Fair.

Cool Stuff

Describe innovations, happy accidents, good news, etc. that occurred within your unit not noted elsewhere in your reporting.

This fall Green Quad hosted Buzz Scott, an expert in the field of Marine Science for a 3-day visit. During this time he visited multiple classes and clubs advised by GQ staff. Additionally, we had students sign up to have 1:1 meetings and/or share a meal with him to network and learn about opportunities in the field. During his time at Green Quad, he met with 81 students. Multiple Green Quad students have begun the process of applying to work with him this summer at OceansWide, an education and research program for ocean exploration and awareness. Due to the high level of engagement and excitement from our students, we would like to host more opportunities and bring in sustainability experts from other fields of work.