

Beyond Free Wine: Non-formal Spaces for Learning and Leadership to Support Academic Outcomes

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The University of York College system represents a compelling community of academic learning spaces, peer support, and support to create student leaders. What makes the college system at York different than an average hall of residence? Why would a student choose to live in on campus accommodation versus the private sector? How have the colleges at York been involved with the latest student development theory?

Student development literature coming out of the US has been encouraging student support services to create opportunities that facilitate learning outside of the classroom and in non-traditional environments. This theory informing practice has proven to support a higher level of student engagement and success in US student populations.

Utilizing these best practices from top institutions in the US, York has been adapting these strategies within our college communities. This engaging workshop will invite participants to learn how the nine colleges at the university have developed extra-curricular learning and highlight the benefits of these approaches. This workshop will showcase how the colleges support learning, leadership and enhance employability, by sharing innovative volunteer opportunities, mentor programs and intercultural competency training.

This session will also allow the participants to discover ways to collaborate across the college system and engage with college staff. These collaborations will enhance the creative academic learning spaces already being developed and make way for new possibilities that will further student success.