Case Study: Community Engagement Strategy Allegheny College

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Executive Summary

Allegheny College sought to deepen their long-term relationship with the City of Meadville and its local business community. Their goal was to engage students to be interested and involved in the downtown, formulate partnerships between businesses and the college, encourage the downtown business community to welcome students and be more involved with the campus, and create a relationship that would be marketable to potential students and families – a vibrant Allegheny is a vibrant Meadville and vice versa. Allegheny was seeking a strategy for community engagement that was both actionable and sustainable.

Challenges

Due to the nature of higher education, creating a sustainable program was key. Previous efforts have been short lived and lacked continuity as faculty and students came and left. This engagement strategy also had to reach both every stage of the student life cycle and have some near immediate action steps to build excitement while committees and structures were being created.



Short and Long Term Engagement

The main goal of this project was to create an actionable and sustainable engagement plan for deepening relations between the campus and business community. A thorough study was performed, focusing on the current relationship, other campus/community relationship efforts nationwide, and interviews with business owners, students, and community leaders. From this research, a strategy was formulated for further engagement with both a long-term structure and short term deliverables to achieve immediate excitement and buy-in.



Structures and Benchmarks were set up to ensure success and sustainability of a long-term engagement committee while short term projects were used to build interest.



As an immediate step, partnership with the City on a Holiday Shopping Commercial helped get Allegheny involved in driving retail to the local business community.

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Student Life

NEW! Meadville Area Interactive Map & Guide

All new for the 2018/2019 academic year

Created especially for Allegheny students, this interactive map features downtown businesses, dining options, historic properties, and more — complete with business information and descriptions, business hours, website and social media links, and specials or discounts for Allegheny students (where applicable).

Explore all that Meadville has to offer!



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Another initial project coming out of the strategy- a downtown Meadville map highlighting businesses, bus routes, etc. to attract students to local offerings. Nearly 10,000 have used the map since its recent unveiling.

Map Project

Each location has contact information for the local business.





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To Contact Us Bull Moose Progressive Marketing <u>https://bullmoosemarketing.com</u> 814-573-9028

