The New 'Normal' and Planning Student Events

Sameera Luthur
Program Advisor GA Tech Student Center
Overview

My role in the Student Center

Programs during 2020-2021

Lessons Learned

Going into Fall 2021

Questions/Discussion

In the chat
Introduce yourself
What are you hoping to learn and/or
One word to describe how you are feeling about
events this Fall?
Introduction & SCPC

- Program Advisor in the Student Center
- SCPC hosts over 50 events every semester
  - Students plan and we advise through the processes
- March 2020: Beginning of COVID
- Summer 2020: How do we make Programs happen
  - Look to the institution for guidelines and requirements
- August 2020-May 2021 Outcome
  - 35 Events; 7,855
  - 18 “Smaller events”; 850
  - Students reported that they felt safe
  - 0 cases linked to our events
How did we find success

A COMBINATION OF EVENT FORMATS: IN-PERSON AND VIRTUAL

TALK TO/SURVEY PARTICIPANTS AT OUR EVENTS

READY TO MAKE CHANGES IN THE MOMENT

REDEFINED SUCCESS
Lessons Learned

• People want to attend events and they know what is at risk
  • Connections are an important part of mental health (Students, faculty, and staff)

• Plan EARLY (6-8 weeks out)

• The minuscule details mattered more than the big pieces
  • (Check in, flow from entrance to exit, strategically placing volunteers, etc.)

• Set expectations before the event: emails, tickets/registration

• Time slots help you control flow
  • Wristbands or resets

• Model how you want attendees to behave at events

• Use campus resources: ELC, ECN,

• Test your virtual components before the event

• Be ready to be flexible
Going into Fall 2021

• Fresh off the press: Fall 2021 Event Guidelines
  • https://specialevents.gatech.edu/2021-campus-events-guidelines-fall

• Tentative Calendar

• Finding large spaces and planning for more people than anticipated

• Continuing Tickets and other queuing processes

• Turn to the experts
Questions & Comments

Contact Info

Sameera.Luthur@stucen.gatech.edu