StudentVoice, in partnership with the NASPA Assessment and Student Learning Consortium, administered a survey of the campus activities experience among college students (N=13,270), and AU was a participant. The assessment was administered in a web format in April 2012 to our entire campus. Alfred University had 316 respondents. Outcomes were then compared with national averages.

Among respondents, 82% identified as white, 70% women, 20% members of an intercollegiate sports team (the national average was 9%), and 14% identified as lesbian, gay, bisexual or queer.

Most aspects of the AU campus activities programs were rated positively. 65% felt the number of activities on campus on the weekend met their needs compared to the national average of 61%. 55% were content with their level of involvement in campus activities. 69% of respondents were a member of at least one club or organization. 29% indicated a GPA below a 3.0, compared to 20% of the national sample.

Key findings:

- Activities are evaluated more positively than those at other small private colleges – but students say we don’t promote them as well.
- 17% of our students attend sporting events on campus, compared to 30% nationally. However, performing arts are quite a draw – 47% of our students attend, compared to 35% nationally.
- Our students are more likely than at other colleges to be involved in student government or to attend meetings of Student Senate – 11%.
- Our students are far more likely to interact with faculty and staff during our campus events than those at other schools.
- Our students were more likely than others to say that campus activities are an important factor in choosing a college.
- AU students were less likely than others to feel that participation in campus activities will lead to participation as an alumnus, and they were less likely to know how to translate skills learned through campus activities to the “real world.”
Quotes from students regarding their involvement in campus activities:

“Activities on campus have helped develop my leadership skills and instilled in me a confidence that I can carry with me to the classroom setting I will find myself in after graduation.”

“(My organization) helped me become comfortable with this school and exposed me to working with the community.”

“Community Service has helped me realize that helping those who are less fortunate than you is a very fulfilling task. Through playing sports, I learned that to become a leader, you must follow at first and learn from those ahead of you.”

“I will be more able/willing/confident in taking on leadership roles and planning events more successfully.”

“By attending campus activities I have expanded my networking skills and also learned of different cultures and other interests that I did not know that I had.”

“I've learned how to work better with others for a common cause, how to lead, how to get things done when I’m working with a group as opposed to myself, how to be efficient and take care of small details that I didn't think were important before but can mess you up if you don't watch for them.”

“It has allowed me to become less shy and more outspoken. It has also increased my self confidence.”
Summary and Action Items

Overall the campus activities and student involvement survey showed students are happy with the type of programming that is happening and the level at which it is happening. It is particularly interesting to note that campus activities are a significant source of engagement with our faculty, staff and administration. This is a signature piece of our campus programming.

Areas of improvement would include increasing student interest in stepping up to take on leadership positions, increasing their sense of themselves as future alumni, and stronger emphasis on tying in-classroom and out-of-classroom work together. Students should be able to link their experience with campus activities to real-life skills after graduation.

Complete results are available on Campus Labs or by contacting Tricia Debertolis, Assistant Dean for New Student Programs.