



**The 21st Century Project** was developed by the Association for College and University Housing Officers-International (ACUHO-I) as an effort to encourage colleges and universities to use a highly participatory process to consider the possibilities for building residence halls that meet student needs in the 21st century. The project initially began in 2006 with a summit meeting of 100 college housing and student affairs professionals who met to envision the residence hall of the coming decades. Two subsequent design showcase events were held in 2007 and 2008. Phase II of the project included submissions from institutions desiring to be a host institution to a prototype. Three campuses were selected to plan, and perhaps even build, residence halls that are especially poised to: 1) foster community; 2) take advantage of technological advances; and 3) offer sustainable solutions in the context of their own institutional culture and identity. Selected universities included Baylor University, Colorado College and Indiana University. The ultimate aspiration for these three campuses to one day build "21st Century" residential facilities that will become research sites for other colleges and universities building residence halls.

Baylor held a full-day "visioning" summit on Wednesday, April 8, 2009 to brainstorm the possibilities with 30 faculty, staff and students in attendance. Specifically, the purpose of the summit was:

- To orient Baylor stakeholders to the 21<sup>st</sup> Century Project;
- To bring to light key elements that will define student experiences in the 21<sup>st</sup> century and the associated features of a prototype residential facility for Baylor;
- To provide a forum for stakeholders to craft a vision statement for a residential village;
- To give stakeholders a chance to do a rough outline of their "program statement" necessary for architects to design the residential expectations of the campus.

Professional facilitators and 21<sup>st</sup> Century Project leaders were present to help guide us as we created a collective vision for what will one day be the East Village Residential Community. Specifically, we sought to identify how it could be more sustainable, technologically sophisticated, and designed to build community. The vision statement the summit members collaboratively created reads:

*"Our vision for the prototype residential facility that will be built on the Baylor campus is that it will serve 1,000 students which will represent a diverse cross-section of the university population including members of a residential college, the school of social work, student athletes, and living-learning programs."*

When CL&L leadership debriefed the summit with the ACUHO-I facilitation team, the group emphasized their respect and admiration for what they described as Baylor's "carefully considered, thoughtful, and intentional aspirations for connecting living with learning." The lead facilitator shared that while their experiences at Indiana University and Colorado College were positive, Baylor's creativity, intentionality, and care for the life of the mind and spirit made Baylor stand out among the three. They indicated that our high level of faculty engagement was unusual and far surpassed what they have observed around the country.

Campus Living & Learning and summit members are anxious to continue the conversation and planning in the near future in hopes of fulfilling Imperative II of Baylor 2012 - "to create a truly residential campus in which 50 percent of undergraduates reside on campus." We have made considerable progress in that almost 40 percent (up from 29 percent in 2003) now reside on campus and our residential facilities remain full. As such, we are anxious to have the East Village Residential Community actualized so that the minimum goal of 50 percent can be achieved.