

Affordable Attire

Introduction

Many students are in need of access to affordable clothing. Whether it is for work/job interviews or just a coat to stay warm in the winter, there are inexpensive options that colleges can pursue and recommend to students in need. One effective method that many schools have employed is establishing a clothes closet on campus.

In 2013 alone, Americans discarded 15.1 million tons of clothing and other textiles, and 85 percent of that wound up in landfills.¹

Donations



- Clothing donations from students, professors, community members, and nonprofit organizations will help you gain items for your campus closet. Cash donations could be used to purchase underrepresented sizes.

Clothes Closets on Campus



- Support students in setting a positive first impression through their attire for interviews, events, and the workplace.

Implementation

Implementing a successful clothes closet on your campus can include:

- Hold a clothing drive. Drives are a good way to acquire items to help get a campus started.
- Have a campus-wide event (dance party, movie night, talent show, etc.) where the entrance fee could be one article of clothing².
- Publicize your initiative through posters, flyers, social media, and other media outlets on and off campus.
- Place containers around campus for the collection of items.
- Contact local department stores about donating make-up, accessories and shoes.

Best Practices

- There are different types of Clothes Closets to choose from:
 - A lending closet
 - A closet allowing students to keep the clothes free of charge
 - A closet allowing students to keep the clothes at a reasonable price

Resources

External Resources:

- [Save-A-Suit: Free Business Attire for Veterans](#)
- [Goodwill Industries of Middle Tennessee](#)
- [Corporation for National and Community Service: Starting a Clothing Drive Team](#)

Consignment Shops:

- [Plato's Closet](#)
- [Clothes Mentor](#)

College Clothes Closets:

- [Georgia Tech: Campus Closet](#)
- [Cal Poly: Pomona Clothes Closet](#)

TBR Resources:

- [MTSU: Raiders Closet](#)
- [TTU College of Business](#)

¹Freeman, David. "[Why You Should NEVER Throw Old Clothes In The Trash.](#)" The Huffington Post. N.p., 10 Oct. 2016. Web.

²"[Clothing Drive Ideas.](#)" Clothing Drive Ideas. The Needlework Guild of America, n.d. Web. 2016.