ADDRESSING GRIEF IN COLLEGE LIFE
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National Data
- 22-30% of college students experience a death of a loved one every year.
- More than 4.5 million college students are grieving the loss of a loved one.

Furman Data
- About 39% diagnosed with a type of depression, commonly linked to situations of grief.
- 93 personal losses in the 2016-2017 academic year.
- 24 personal losses have been recorded this Fall 2017.

What Did We Do
Comprehensive research on grief and loss from the college student perspective including:
- Interviews with Furman staff to understand what systems of protocol are already in place for student grief support on campus
- Interviews with professionals in death and dying occupations (Greenville and national) to understand grief among different populations and communities
- Interviews with 150 University personnel across the US to understand grief support services offered
- Interviews with bereaved Furman students and faculty to understand their unique grief journey
- Peer-reviewed articles

Recommendations and Actions
1. Created New Resources
   - Furman sympathy cards
   - Online information to educate on grief and resources
   - College student grief brochure

2. Expand group/individual counseling support
   - Better advertisements for grief support group
   - Recommend for peer led support group
   - Recommend for grief memorial service

3. Enhance support systems
   - Recommend establishment of bereavement policy

4. Educated the Furman community
   - Two organized educational lectures on grief for student credit through the Cultural Life Programs
   - Presented trainings to student organizations including Student Government Association, Greek life chapters, Religious Counsel, Advisor training, and RA training
   - Recommend for on-campus awareness week

Developed Recommendations for Furman University to Improve Support for Grieving Students

Background
- Three student losses on campus in 2016-2017 academic year, most on campus deaths in Furman history.
- University Chaplain sees need to directly address grief support on campus. The Furman community needs more support in academic life, social life, and grief support outreach.

Looking Forward
Hope for continued grief education, increased awareness, decreased stigma, and more students overall actively healing from their grief.

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