

## THE CHRONICLE OF HIGHER EDUCATION

### Slide-Away Desk Saves Space and Money at U. of Cincinnati

By Lawrence Biemiller | August 9, 2013



Photo by Lisa Ventre/UC

Feel free to smack your head right now and wonder why no one in your housing office thought of this: a chest of drawers with a built-in desk that slides out of one side when a student wants to work at it and then slides back in afterward to make space for friends—or that stays hidden away for students who do all their work in the library or on their beds.

Luckily, two staff members at the University of Cincinnati did think of it—Todd Duncan, director of housing and food services, and Carl Dieso, associate director of

housing—and the university worked out a deal with Blockhouse Contract Furniture to get the combined unit into production. Buying one piece of furniture instead of two saved about \$200 per bed, or \$90,000, in the renovation of the university's Morgens Hall.

According to Duncan additional savings were realized over time. "A year after deploying the space saver, we received a very pleasant surprise during our summer turnover cleaning. Housekeeping leadership reported a 15% reduction in labor costs to clean the building as their staff had less furniture to move during floor preparation...they simply closed the desk!"

In addition to the desk, the unit has three drawers (the top one can be secured with a padlock), three electrical outlets, two USB ports, and a built-in surge protector.