ASSESSMENT THAT WORKS: CREATING A COLLABORATIVE AND COMPREHENSIVE LIVING LEARNING COMMUNITY ASSESSMENT TOOLKIT

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CREATING THE NEXT®

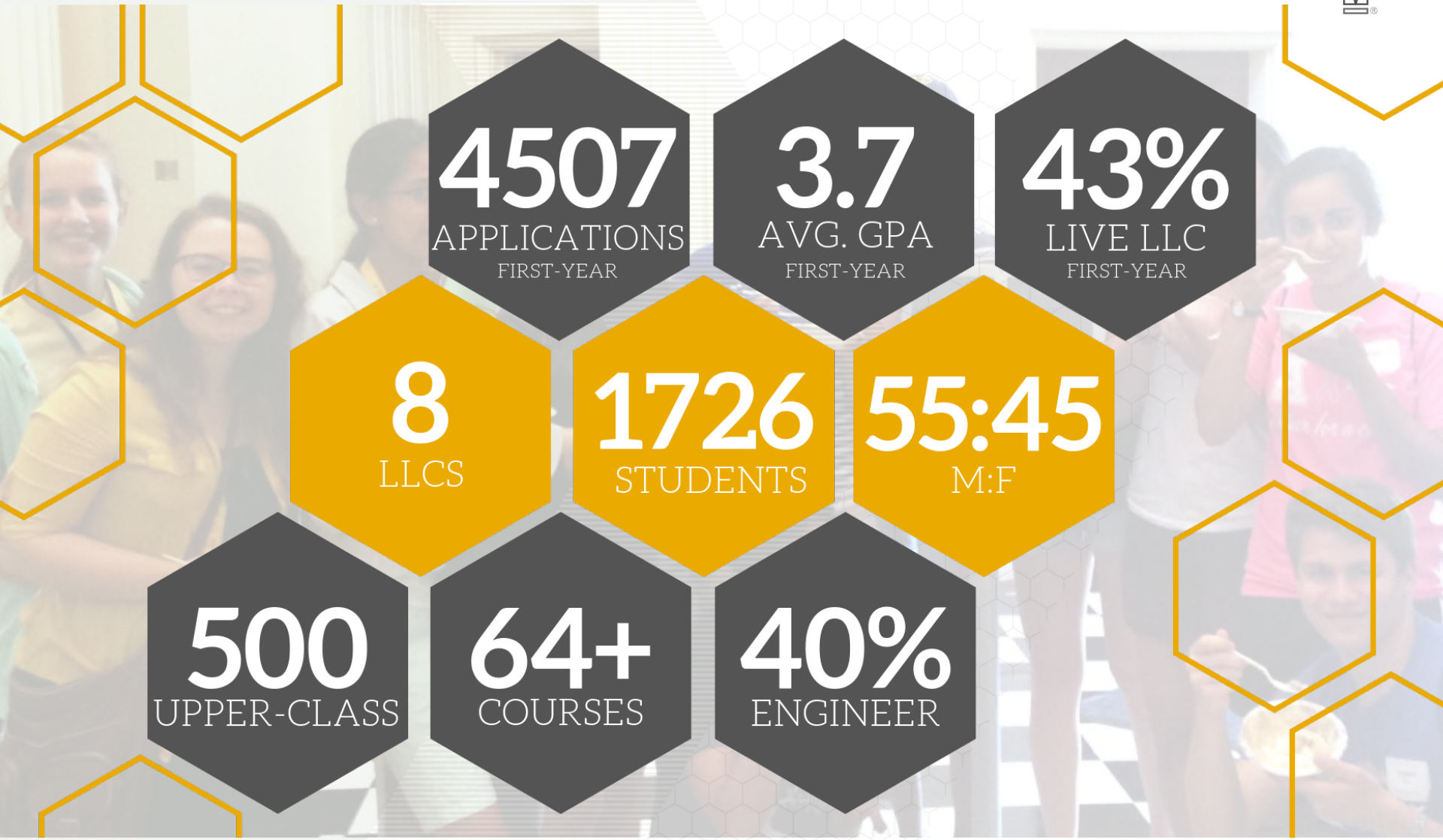
Georgia Tech

After participating in this session, you will be able to:

- List three potential challenges to assessing living learning communities
- Describe how goal mapping and strategic planning relate to the assessment of living learning communities
- Describe how creating cross-collaborative teams can improve assessment efforts for living learning communities
- List five practical steps to creating your own Assessment Toolkit

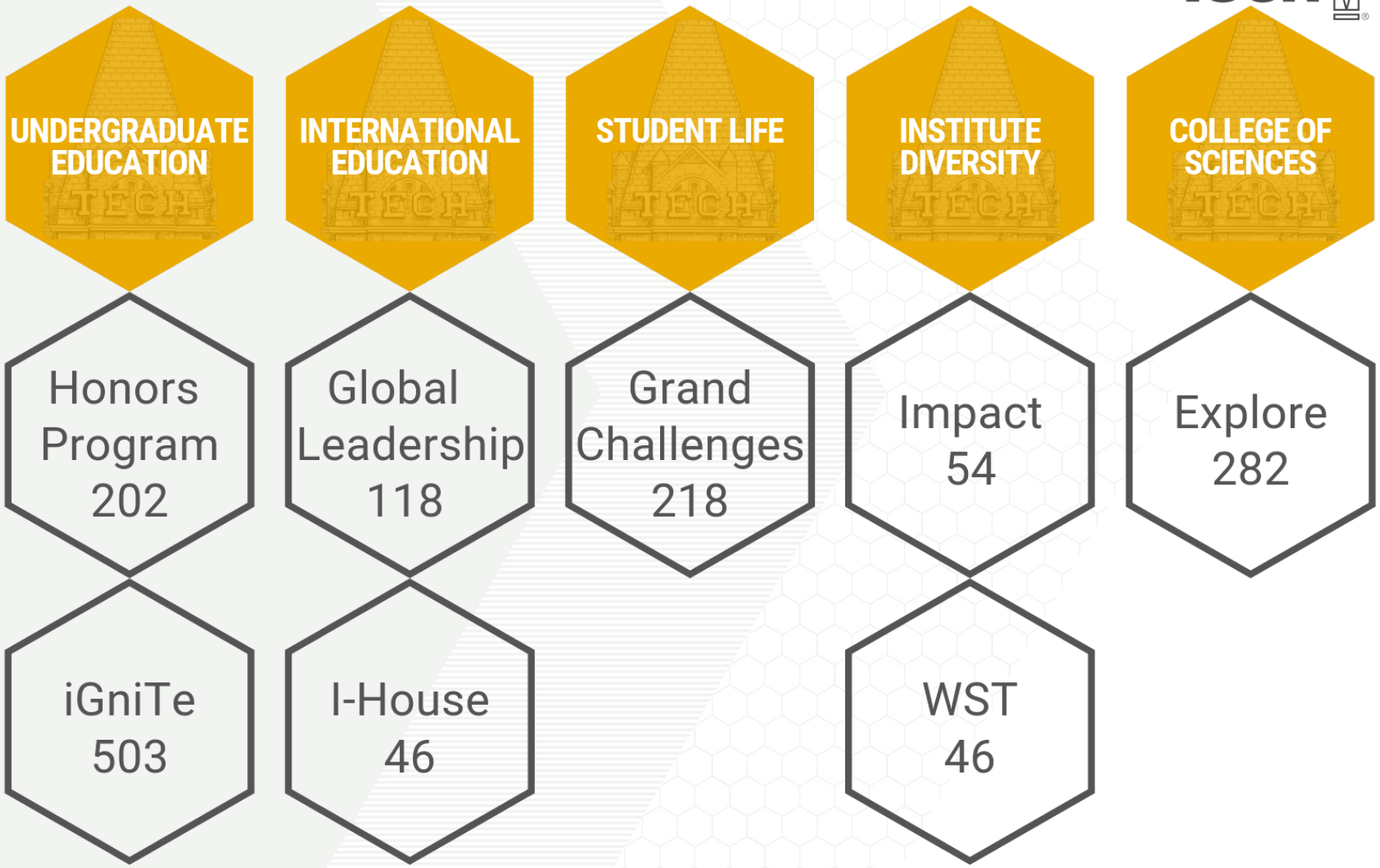
- Established in 1885, opened for classes in 1888
- Major research institution and member of the Association of American Universities (AAU)
- STEM-focused public Institution within the University System of Georgia
- **Fall 2019 Enrollment:** 36,659
  - 16,162 Undergraduate and 20,497 Graduate
- **Outreach:** regional, national, and global (Savannah, France, Singapore, Shenzhen, etc.)
- **Location:** Urban (midtown Atlanta)
- **Vision:** Georgia Tech will define the technological research university of the twenty-first century. As a result, we will be leaders in influencing major technological, social, and policy decisions that address critical global challenges. **"What does Georgia Tech think?"** will be a common question in research, business, the media, and government.
- **Mission:** Technological change is fundamental to the advancement of the human condition. The Georgia Tech community - students, staff, faculty, and alumni - **will realize our motto of "Progress and Service" through effectiveness and innovation in teaching and learning,** our research advances, and entrepreneurship in all sectors of society. We will be leaders in improving the human condition in Georgia, the United States, and around the globe.

THE GEORGIA TECH LIVING LEARNING COMMUNITIES



THE GEORGIA TECH LLCS: ORGANIZATIONAL STRUCTURE

Georgia Tech



ASSESSMENT CHALLENGES

- **“Bean Counting”:** We knew how many students were involved in LLCs or participated in certain events, but not what impact it had on them
- **Summative:** We knew certain final outcomes for our students (grades, graduated, retained, or left), but did not know what role we played in that process
- **Scope:**
  - Some LLCs already had comprehensive assessment plans and some did not
  - Assessment looked different across LLCs so it was difficult to know if we were achieving our goals
  - Not all LLCs target LLC goals or were even aware of the larger LLC goals
- **Diagnostics:** We did not receive sufficient or organized information that would help us adapt or improve the programs
- **Support:** Not all LLCs had support in place for assessment despite their importance to the Institute and rapid growth

STEP 1: CREATING MEASURABLE AND ACTIONABLE OUTCOMES

1. Create a greater sense of Georiga Tech Community
2. Improve the six year graduation rate to 90%
3. Produce "T" shaped adults
4. Create living learning communities that differentiate Georgia Tech's offerings and can be used as a recruiting tool
5. Help Georgia Tech redefine itself as the technological university of the future

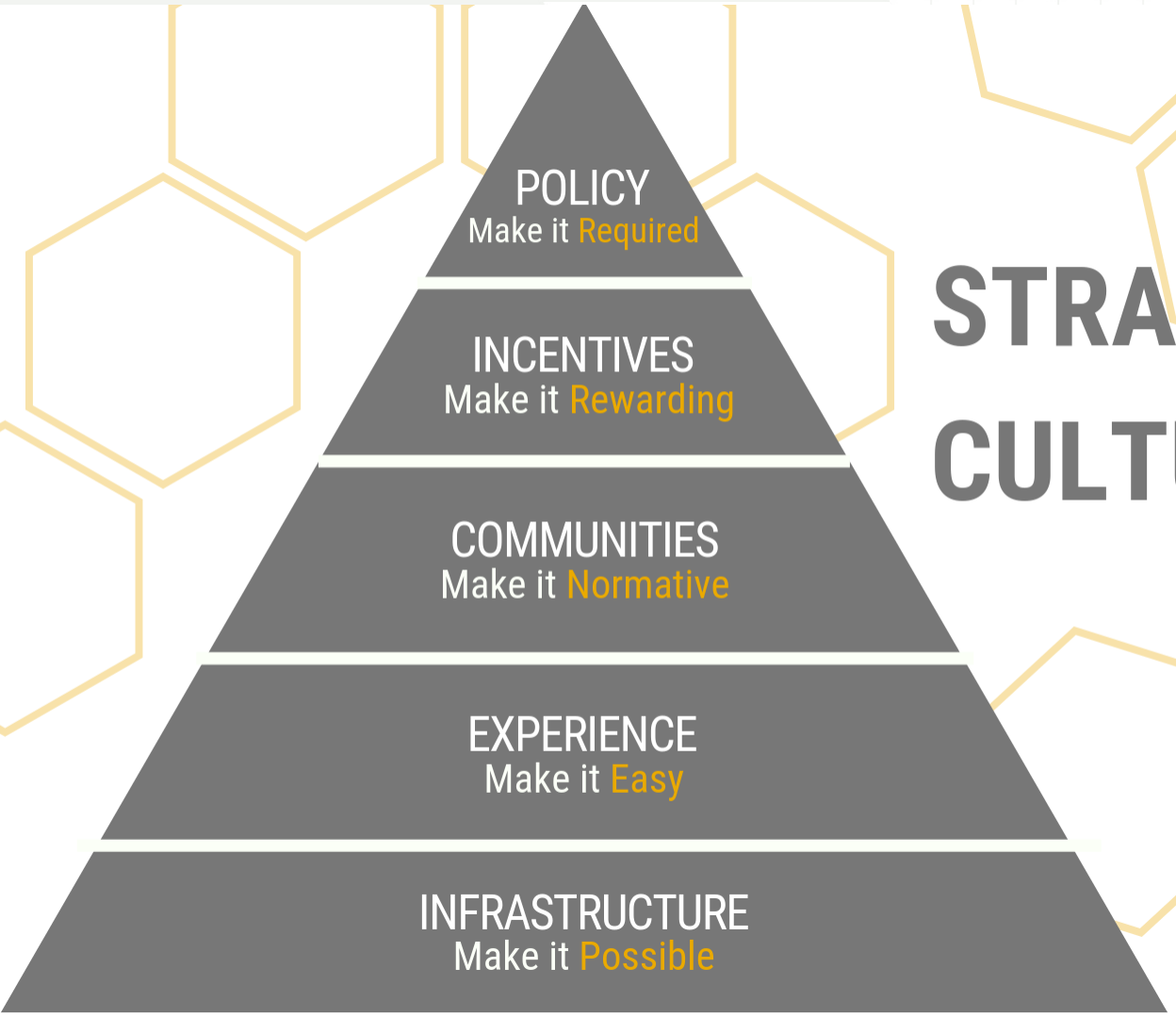
- Promote interactions between faculty and students
- Foster collaboration among students
- Enhance campus and civic engagement
- Ease academic and social transition to college
- Increase student satisfaction with LLC experience

STEP 2: CREATING THE MAP AND BUILDING SUPPORT

	SMaRT	SHaRP	Global Leadership	Grand Challenges	Honors	iGniTe	Int House	WST
Goal 1: Promote interactions between faculty and students	X	X	X	X	X			X
Goal 2: Foster collaboration among students			X	X			X	
Goal 3: Improve GPA and retention	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X
Goal 4: Enhance campus and civic engagement			X	X	X		X	X
Goal 5: Ease the academic and social transition to college	X	X	X	X	X	X		
Goal 6: Satisfaction	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X

DISCUSSION GROUP

- What challenges do you face in assessing living learning communities in your own university or institute?
- How are you working to over come those challenges?
- What are the goals of your university or institute's living learning communities? How do you balance assessment of living learning communities as a whole with the individual interests and needs of each community?

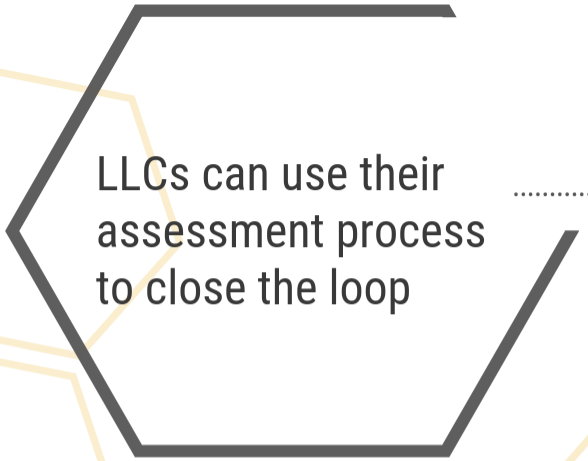


STRATEGY FOR CULTURE CHANGE

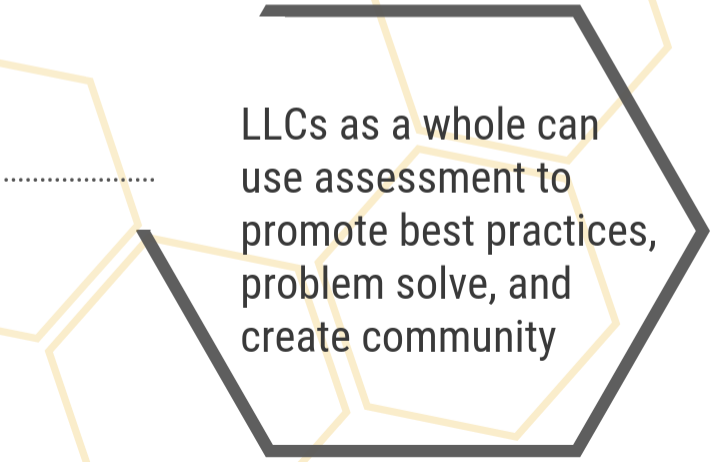
Center for Open Science, 2019

STEP 4: IMPLEMENTATION

STEP 5: CLOSING THE LOOP



- The Honors Program LLC now hosts “Coffee with a Prof” and provides vouchers to students to take time to talk with their professors
- The Global Leadership LLC is implementing a training for Teaching Assistants and started a new “Student Engagement Team” led by students in the LLC
- The IHouse LLC is now offering more service opportunities for students and being more intentional about advertising these events



- Hold a best practices workshop for all LLC staff and faculty
- Advise the LLC Student Council to develop student driven programming that facilitates student-faculty engagement
- Increase partnerships with Center for Academic Success to offer more tutoring in the residence halls

- How are you creating a culture of continuous improvement in your own living learning communities?
- Which of the factors described by the Center for Open Science are the easiest to support right now? Which are the most difficult?
- How have you been able to close the loop with your assessment work in the past year? How might you focus on this in the coming year?

- **Create connection:** Create outcomes that allow you to measure an individual LLCs progress and how LLCs as a whole on your campus are doing
- **Involve different perspectives:** Include student, faculty, and staff voice in toolkit design, data collection, analysis, and discussions surrounding closing the loop.
- **Take action:** ask questions in a way that you can create change; don't just ask what's working, ask what's not
- **Practical Considerations:**
  - Start small: If staff or time resources are an issue, start small but rigorous
  - One measure → multiple outcomes
  - Make it approachable: See one, do one, teach one
  - Don't sweat the small stuff: continue to improve the improvement process
  - Make it flexible: build in opportunities to allow individual LLCs to customize it to fit their needs

QUESTIONS?

For more information about our toolkit or Georgia Tech Student Services Assessments please visit:

- http://assessment.oue.gatech.edu/
- https://sl-assessment.gatech.edu/

REFERENCES

Nosek, B. (2019, June). Strategy for culture change. Retrieved from https://cos.io/blog/strategyculturechange/?fbclid=IwAR1XZtIyzSO8QWRjBDUCwsMzx79jUzvm2QEg9LTv2GPT9xClo1xAV0zUPk