August 12, 2016

Dear Gettysburg Student,

We are all looking forward to your return to campus later this month! Gettysburg is a community that prides itself on its strong sense of community and the greatness of its students, faculty, and alumni. Our campus is one of only 17 liberal arts institutions included in *The Princeton Review’s* latest guide, *Colleges that Create Futures: 50 Schools that Launch Careers by Going Beyond the Classroom*. Gettysburg College was also ranked in the top 20 for internships, best alumni network, students who study the most, athletic facilities, campus food, and happiest students.

While we are proud of these accolades, they only highlight what we have long known to be true: Our community holds countless opportunities to embrace the rich history, scholarship, and resources that are unique to our campus. We hold our students to high standards, both in and out of the classroom. We expect students to act with respect towards one another, upholding the “worth and dignity of all people and the limitless value of their intellectual potential,” creating an inclusive and supportive environment for all.

As we prepare to begin the fall 2016 semester, we acknowledge a series of violent and tragic incidents here and abroad that have impacted our families, communities, and challenged our beliefs. We know that these incidents have had an impact on our sense of safety and belonging within our given communities. As Gettysburgians, we are neither isolated from these incidents nor the underlying issues. As a tight-knit community, we have the opportunity to support one another and to learn from one another. In coming weeks, I encourage you to discuss these important social and political issues with your fellow students and faculty members. You may also want to join a student group or organization to connect with others who may have similar or different perspectives on the many issues. Please also consider attending an event on campus to discuss these incidents and challenges.

Below we have highlighted a number of important policies and programs to help make this a safer and more inclusive campus community:

**Office of Multicultural Engagement:** Based on discussions with students last year, The Office of Intercultural Advancement has been restructured and renamed the Office of Multicultural Engagement (OME). Monique Gore has been appointed to the position of Director of Multicultural Programming and Outreach. We are currently searching for an Executive Director for the office. As part of OME, Pete Curry will continue to provide support to underrepresented students as Dean for Community Based Organizations/First-Year Mentoring. Brad Lancaster will continue to serve as Director of International Student Services.

**LGBTQA Advocacy and Education:** A new Director for LGBTQA Advocacy & Education, Tiffany Lane, will be working out of the Women’s and LGBTQA Resource Center on the first floor of Apple Hall, located across from the Jaeger Center. Tiffany can be reached at (717) 337-7577 or tlane@gettysburg.edu.
Alcohol Use on Campus: The Alcohol and Drug Policy Point System is designed to help students avoid the potentially damaging consequences of alcohol or drug abuse. It is important to note that a student reaching 10 points will be required to take a leave of absence.

Research from the National Institutes of Health indicates that first-year students are particularly vulnerable during the first six weeks to excessive drinking and alcohol-related consequences. Gettysburg College will regulate student social events with alcohol as follows:

- No events with alcohol are permitted on campus, including fraternities and College Houses, during the time prior to the first day of classes and through September 9, 2016.
- First year students are restricted from any events with alcohol until September 16, 2016.
- Additional points and fines will apply for students in violation of these restrictions.

Meningitis Vaccine: Health Services is advising all students and parents to carefully review updated recommendations from the CDC and the National Foundation for Infectious Diseases regarding meningitis vaccination. Recent college meningitis outbreaks have been related to the serogroup B strain; a vaccine for this strain is now available and recommended. For more information, contact Health Services at (717) 337-6970 or your healthcare provider.

CARE group: If you have concerns about a fellow student, particularly if you have observed disturbing or concerning behaviors, we encourage you to submit a report using the Community Concern Form or contact Associate VP of College Life, Jeff Foster, at (717)337-6900 or jfoster@gettysburg.edu.

Alcohol and Drug Information and Support: Our Handbook of Student Rights and Responsibilities contains information regarding alcohol and drug policy and support, including:

- Alcohol and drug policy information including the Alcohol and Drug Policy Points System.
- Health effects of alcohol and other drug use.
- Counseling, assessment, intervention and treatment resources available to our students.
- Applicable local, state and federal laws.

This information is also available online:

http://www.gettysburg.edu/about/offices/college_life/srr/alcohol-and-other-drug-use-information-/

Sexual Violence and Relationship Violence Education & Prevention: All students need to understand how to intervene and prevent sexual violence, our policy, and how to report any inappropriate behaviors witnessed or experienced campus. All Gettysburg College students take part in sexual assault prevention education through Haven, a course designed to help students understand consent, incapacitation, and bystander intervention. Jennifer McCary, the institutional Title IX coordinator, is located in room 220 of the College Union Building and can be reached at (717)337-6900. If you have questions regarding sexual misconduct, sexual assault, and relationship violence issues and resources on campus, see the Sexual Misconduct Resource Site for more information.

Bias and Harassment policies: Gettysburg College has a Bias-Related Conduct policy and a Harassment policy. Please review the policies and report any inappropriate behaviors that you may witness on campus.
**Prohibited items:** Hover boards and drones are prohibited on campus. For the most up to date version of the Handbook of Student Rights and Responsibilities and the Points System check online at [www.gettysburg.edu/studenthandbook](http://www.gettysburg.edu/studenthandbook).

We look forward to seeing you in a few weeks!

Julie L. Ramsey, Ed.D.
Vice President for College Life and Dean of Students

*Alcohol and Drug Information provided in accordance with the Drug Free Schools and Campuses Act. For more information regarding policies, support, resources, or the College’s Biennial Review Report, please contact the College Life Office in College Union Building 220 or call (717) 337-6900.*