August 11, 2016

Dear Gettysburg Student,

In the coming weeks, you will be joining a community that prides itself on its strong sense of community and the greatness of its students, faculty, and alumni. As I’m sure you have heard, 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, happiest students, and participation in intramural sports.

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. As such, 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, in some cases, 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. As we come together 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.

Please review the information below so that you are aware of our resources available to you, the expectations of members of our community, and the policies in place to support your well-being.

**Diversity and Inclusion:** The **Office of Multicultural Engagement (OME)** and **Office of International Student Services**, located in The Intercultural Resource Center on Washington Street, are here to provide support for underrepresented students, first generation students, and international students. **The Women’s Center** and **LGBTQA Resource Center**, also a source of support and programming, are located on the first floor of Apple Hall, across from the Jaeger Center.

**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 Use on Campus:** The **Alcohol and Drug Policy Point System** is designed to help our students avoid the potentially damaging consequences of alcohol or drug abuse. Any student reaching 10 points will be required to take a leave of absence.

According to the **National Institutes of Health**, first-year students are particularly vulnerable during the first six weeks to excessive drinking and alcohol-related consequences. Our primary goal during this time is to give students the opportunity to attend events without alcohol. Gettysburg College will not permit 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.
We hope you all will take part in Late Night Gettysburg activities as well as take advantage of social spaces such as the Junction, Bullet Hole, Jaeger Center, and Majestic Theater. Learn more about the 120+ clubs and organizations on campus by attending the Campus Activities Fair on Friday, September 2.

**Alcohol and Drug Information and Support:** Our [Handbook of Student Rights and Responsibilities](http://www.gettysburg.edu/about/offices/college_life/srr/alcohol-and-other-drug-use-information/) contains information regarding alcohol and drug policy and support, including:

- Alcohol and drug policy information including the [Alcohol and Drug Policy Points System](http://www.gettysburg.edu/about/offices/college_life/srr/alcohol-and-other-drug-use-information/).
- 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/](http://www.gettysburg.edu/about/offices/college_life/srr/alcohol-and-other-drug-use-information/).

**Sexual Violence and Relationship Violence Education & Prevention:** Sexual violence of any kind is prohibited at Gettysburg College. All students need to understand our [policy](http://www.gettysburg.edu/about/offices/college_life/srr/alcohol-and-other-drug-use-information/), how to intervene and prevent sexual violence, 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, bystander intervention, and other helpful information on preventing sexual assaults. Jennifer McCary is the [institutional Title IX coordinator](http://www.gettysburg.edu/about/offices/college_life/srr/alcohol-and-other-drug-use-information/). She 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](http://www.gettysburg.edu/about/offices/college_life/srr/alcohol-and-other-drug-use-information/) for more information.

**Green Dot:** The [Green Dot Program](http://www.gettysburg.edu/about/offices/college_life/srr/alcohol-and-other-drug-use-information/) is a bystander-based program emphasizing the importance of intervening so we can measurably and systematically reduce violence within our community. We will provide additional information about Green Dot at Orientation. Contact Jennifer McCary, Associate Dean and Title IX Coordinator, if you would like more information.
**Health and Counseling Services:** Health Services is advising all students and parents to carefully review updated recommendations from the [CDC](https://www.cdc.gov) and the [National Foundation for Infectious Diseases](https://www.nfid.org) regarding meningitis vaccination. Recent college meningitis outbreaks have been related to the serogroup B strain and vaccine is now available and recommended. For more information, review the [Health Center website](https://www.gettysburg.edu/healthcenter) or contact your healthcare provider. Counseling is also available to students at no additional cost. Please see the [Counseling Services website](https://www.gettysburg.edu/counseling) for additional information.

**Bias and Harassment policies:** To insure a safer and more inclusive campus community, 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.

As you prepare to return to campus, please be advised the College prohibits certain items including weapons, knives exceeding three inches, drones, and hover boards. For more information on prohibited items and our policies, the most up-to-date version of the Handbook of Student Rights and Responsibilities and the Points System can be found online at [www.gettysburg.edu/studenthandbook](https://www.gettysburg.edu/studenthandbook). Upon arrival, you will receive a printed copy of the Handbook.

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._