Welcome to SOAR

STUDENT ORIENTATION
ADVISING & REGISTRATION
Supporting Students in the Residence Halls

Dr. Curtis J. Clark
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AGENDA

• Overview of Residence Life Staff
• Caretaker to Coach
• Supporting Student Success in the Residence Halls
• "The Welcome Experience" - First 6 Weeks
• Question & Answer
Community Has All Residents Growing, Engaging, & Discovering

The mission of the Office of Residential Life is to create a safe, supportive, inclusive, and engaged learning environment that enhances the student’s holistic development. We provide opportunities for students to create community and implement a vision for their future.

Community Starts Here

Our vision is for the residential community to create spirited life-long Chargers.

#LivingCHARGEDORL
OVERVIEW OF RESIDENTIAL LIFE STAFF

- Resident Assistants (RA) 67
- Academic Peer Mentors (APM) 5
- Desk Assistants (DA) 20
- Office Assistants (OA) 5
- Residence Directors (RD) 6
- Area Coordinators (AC) 7
- Assistant Directors 2
- Associate Directors 2
- Administrative Coordinator 1
- Director 1
MOVING FROM CARETAKER TO COACH

Wait
Wait until your child asks for advice before giving it.

Support
Ask how you can support them through the process.

Brainstorm
Help your child find answers for themselves. Ask them questions to get them thinking – like “Who could help you on campus?”

Encourage
Remind them that they can do this and that they’ve succeeded in the past!

Listen
Sometimes they just want to be heard.
ANTICIPATE BUMPS ALONG THE WAY

- THE BALANCING ACT
- ROOMMATE ISSUES
- FINDING FRIENDS
- GRADES/FACULTY
- NEW EMPLOYMENT
- GETTING "IN TROUBLE"
FOUR CRITICAL CONVERSATIONS

Academics
• What are your expectations?
• Grades may not be the same as high school

Finances
• Budgeting
• Employment

Health & Safety
• Washing clothes, cleaning room, etc.
• Alcohol & Drugs – expectations, open conversations, safety net

Communication
• When and how – this will change
• Who they should be reaching out to for help
SUPPORTING STUDENT SUCCESS

- Resident Assistants
- Academic Peer Mentors
- Area Coordinators/Residence Directors
- Programming
- Conflict Resolution
"WELCOME EXPERIENCE"

• Floor Meetings
• Roommate Agreements
• Programming
• Hall Councils
“Connecting authentically and deeply with others across all dimensions of life enriches the human spirit. The sense of community resulting from such connections is hallmark of a supportive campus environment, which we know is an important factor in enhancing student learning”

– George D. Kuh