

## **Beliefs, Values, and Principles**

- A. The residence hall is an educationally purposeful community where the support of intellectual growth is core and students, faculty, and staff are partners in strengthening teaching and learning in the living setting.

Residence Life values learning; i.e.; growth and the advancement of knowledge, skills, and understanding in all dimensions.

Because we value learning, our guiding principles include:

- providing an environment that enhances and augments the academic mission of the University;
- providing opportunities for self-exploration;
- providing opportunities for learning about others' lifestyles, cultures, experiences, values, etc.
- providing challenges and appropriate levels of support to students and staff

- B. The residence hall is a just community where the dignity of each individual is affirmed and equitable opportunity is vigorously pursued. Residence Life values individual differences; i.e.; acknowledging the uniqueness of each individual and accepting, appreciating, and celebrating their right to that uniqueness.

Because we value individual differences, our guiding principles include:

- acting affirmatively in all selection and hiring processes;
- promoting awareness and understanding of and sensitivity to differences;
- opposing tolerance, oppressive behaviors, bigotry, and harassment related to human differences.

- C. The residence hall is an open community where freedom of expression is uncompromisingly protected and civility is expected and powerfully affirmed.

Residence Life values mutual respect; i.e.; consideration and regard for each other.

Because we value mutual respect, our guiding principles include:

- presenting an opportunity for all sides of an issue to be heard;
- promoting an open exchange of ideas;
- encouraging open communication between and among all levels of staff and students;
- fostering an appreciation and celebration of differences;
- developing supportive and cooperative relationships with other units.

- D. The residence hall is a disciplined community where individuals accept their responsibility for contributing to the common good and adhere to the standards that guarantee the common good.

Residence Life values a sense of community; i.e.; feelings of belonging, sharing standards and goals, supporting the common good.

Because we value a sense of community, our guiding principles include:

- promoting a sense of responsibility and accountability to oneself and the group;
- fostering cooperation between and among all levels of staff and students;
- supporting individuals' rights while protecting the common good;
- nurturing the development of civil community standards.

E. The residence hall is a caring community where the well-being of every member is sensitively supported and service to others is encouraged.

Residence Life values service to all students; i.e.; providing quality assistance to every resident regardless of our own individual beliefs, views, and perspectives.

Because we value service to all students, our guiding principles include:

- placing students' needs first;
- recognizing the worth and dignity of each student;
- providing equitable, not necessarily equal, distribution of goods and services to students.

F. The residence hall is a community of celebration where the heritage and tradition of the University are remembered and rituals affirming both tradition and change are widely shared.

Residence Life values a quality environment; i.e.; safe, secure, and comfortable physical and emotional surroundings that support learning and the development of a sense of community.

Because we value a quality environment, our guiding principles include:

- identifying and preventing insofar as possible, conditions which might adversely affect students' personal, academic, and/or social well being;
- advocating on behalf of students and teaching students how to advocate for themselves.