Dear Student,

I am writing to share information with you about the Dean of Students Office and other resources available to you on campus. I want you to take an active role in your education, involvement and safety while you are a student at the University of Delaware. Faculty and staff are committed to your personal and academic success. The well-being of our community does rest with each individual member. It is everyone’s responsibility to take steps toward personal safety, to speak up if you see something that is not right, and to seek help for yourself or others when needed.

I know you are busy and have lots on your mind, but I urge you to read the following information outlining a few of the resources available at the University to assist you and your friends with having a successful college experience.

The Dean of Students Office, [http://www.udel.edu/studentlife/deanofstudents.html](http://www.udel.edu/studentlife/deanofstudents.html), provides students with the support, resources, and referrals they need to succeed at the university. The office assists students having difficulties due to reasons beyond their control whether they are medical, emotional, psychological, familial, or financial in nature. If you have a question, a concern, or a problem to solve, and you are not sure where to begin, the Dean of Students Office is a great place to start. Our staff is available to answer your questions, advocate on your behalf, or point you in the right direction to get the information you need.

The illegal and/or dangerous use of alcohol presents a serious safety and wellness concern. The Medical Amnesty protocol, [www.udel.edu/amnesty](http://www.udel.edu/amnesty), stipulates that if due to extreme intoxication, medical attention is sought in a proactive way for either yourself or someone else (meaning you call 911 or seek other sufficient help proactively), the Office of Student Conduct will not pursue disciplinary sanctions against you or your friend for a violation of the University’s Alcohol Policy. This protocol has one goal in mind, to get you and your fellow students the help they need immediately in order to forestall harm.

The Wellspring Student Wellness Program, [www.udel.edu/wellspring](http://www.udel.edu/wellspring), provides opportunities for students to engage in wellness check-ups regarding their own or their friends’ drinking choices as well as other health concerns. Students can self-select to take an on-line evaluation program called E-CHUG, and/or they can request an appointment at Wellspring. These 30-minute check-ups are designed to meet the needs of any student, regardless if they choose to drink or not, and oftentimes one meeting is all that is needed to assure one’s future success at avoiding the common pitfalls related to college student drinking.
Sexual harm is a real concern for college-aged persons and it most often is linked to the abusive use of alcohol. Women ages 16 to 24 experience rape at a rate four times higher than the assault rate of all women (Humphrey and Kahn, 2000). Clarifying information about sexual assault, UD’s policy, and answers to frequently asked questions regarding what to do in the event an assault occurs can be found at www.udel.edu/sexualassault. If sexual assault, dating violence, or stalking is experienced, we strongly encourage you to call Sexual Offense Support (S.O.S.), www.udel.edu/sos, 302.831.2226, and speak with a trained victim advocate. Victim advocates serve as powerful allies when guiding victims and their support people through the various options available to seek assistance or report the crime.

Interested in getting involved on campus? Check out the 250 plus registered student organizations, http://www.udel.edu/RSO/. Other resources on campus that you may find helpful while a student at the University include the Center for Counseling and Student Development, http://www.udel.edu/Counseling/, Health Services, http://www.udel.edu/shs/, and Public Safety, http://www.udel.edu/PublicSafety/.

I would like to make you aware of a new policy at the University. In compliance with the Missing Student Notification Policy and Procedures (Section 488 of the Higher Education Opportunity Act of 2008), each student will be asked to identify the name and contact number of the individual(s) whom UD will notify within 24 hours of the determination that the student is missing. For more information on the policy please visit http://www.udel.edu/PublicSafety/missing.htm.

We are a community that cares for each other and we urge you to reach out for assistance if you or a friend is having any difficulty while here at the University. Thanks for your continued effort to keep our campus safe. Go Blue Hens!

Sincerely,

Dawn Thompson
Dean of Students
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