August 12, 2015

Dear Parent or Guardian:

Congratulations on your son or daughter’s acceptance into The College of New Jersey’s (TCNJ) class of 2019! We join you in celebrating this accomplishment and look forward to welcoming our newest students to TCNJ’s community.

While this is an exciting time, we recognize that the transition into college can also be challenging for students and their families. At the collegiate level, first-year students will be faced with many choices and their decision-making skills will be tested in both academic and social settings. As you know, the choices they make can have significant physical, emotional, legal, and academic consequences.

To assist your son or daughter in making the most of his or her college experience, we provide educational programs on pertinent issues during Welcome Week and throughout the year. We also inform students about the College’s behavioral expectations through the Student Conduct Code, A Guide to Residence Living, and discussions on pertinent New Jersey laws.

We recognize that our programming will be most effective when we can build on conversations you have already had with your son or daughter. As partners in this process, we ask that you consider sharing the information below during your pre-college discussions over the next few weeks.

**Alcohol and Drug Education Program (ADEP)**

One of the major issues facing college campuses is underage and high-risk drinking. TCNJ’s ADEP is committed to connecting the campus community with resources, education, training, and counseling pertaining to alcohol and other drug-related issues. Please encourage your son or daughter to use these resources so that he or she can make healthy and informed choices. For more information on ADEP, please visit [http://adep.tcnj.edu](http://adep.tcnj.edu) or call 609-771-2572.

- According to research, there is less frequent alcohol use among young people who feel highly connected to their parents and family members.
- In New Jersey, the legal drinking age is 21. The possession of alcohol by anyone under the age of 21 is a violation of college policy and a criminal offense which may result in fines, a criminal record, and/or additional penalties.
- A significant number of first-year students arrive on college campuses with identification which misrepresents their age. Possession of a fake I.D. is a violation of college policy and a criminal offense, which may result in loss of one’s driver’s license, fines, and additional penalties.
- There is a common misperception about the amount of drinking that occurs on college campuses. Contrary to popular belief, recent national and TCNJ studies indicate that college students drink less and engage in fewer dangerous activities than most students think.

To further assist with the transition to college you can help your first-year student(s) by encouraging them to complete the online education program, Zombies, Alcohol and You that has been emailed to them. Please engage in conversation with your son or daughter to take advantage of this opportunity to reflect on his or her choices and to complete Zombies promptly.

**Anti-Violence Initiatives (AVI)**

Some of you may have noticed recent media attention given to sexual assault on college campuses. Nationwide research indicates that 1 in 5 young women have been sexually assaulted while they’re in college. In response to the disturbing statistics, President Obama created the White House Task Force to Protect Students from Sexual Assault in January 2014. This task force later issued an extensive report, Not Alone, with recommendations for preventing and addressing occurrences of sexual assault. Please be assured that The College of New Jersey is committed to preventing sexual assault and other forms of power-based personal violence. Moreover, TCNJ has been noted as an institution at the forefront of prevention and is utilizing strategies cited in the White House...
Report as best practice. However, despite TCNJ’s commitment to student safety, these crimes have occurred here on campus just as they have in every other community across the nation.

Please know:

- People between the ages of 16-24 are most vulnerable to experiencing sexual assault, domestic/dating violence, and stalking.
- AVI offers confidential counseling and support services for students who have been directly or indirectly impacted by power-based personal violence (i.e. sexual assault, domestic/dating violence, and stalking). Resources, information, advocacy and referrals are offered to ensure survivors’ emotional, physical, and legal needs are addressed.
- Sexual assault is against state and federal law and is in violation of the TCNJ Student Conduct Code. Behavior of this kind will not be tolerated and could ultimately result in expulsion from this institution.
- TCNJ utilizes campus-wide initiatives, such as the Green Dot Strategy and Student Anti-Violence Education (SAVE) Peer Educators, to establish a culture of safety at TCNJ, increase awareness, enhance skills, and promote pro-social bystander behavior.
- Your student will be required to complete an online education program called Every Choice. Every Choice is a training about power-based personal violence, bystander intervention and prevention. Please encourage your student to complete the education program that has been emailed to their TCNJ account, and engage in a conversation with your student around the opportunity to prevent violence in their new community.

Rather than simply hope power-based personal violence disappears, TCNJ’s office of Anti-Violence Initiatives is dedicated to raising the visibility of these issues, leading the violence prevention efforts, and providing services to victims and survivors. For more information on AVI, please visit our website ([http://oavi.tcnj.edu](http://oavi.tcnj.edu)), or call (609) 771-2272.

**Making Healthy Choices**

To assist your son or daughter adjust to college life and achieve personal and academic goals, there are many resources on campus to serve him or her, including the online newsletter, Student Health 101. We encourage you to enroll in the parent version of this online newsletter, Student Health 101: Parent Perspective. Additionally, we have provided you with the “Parents, You’re Not Done Yet” brochure to support your efforts to continue having purposeful conversations with your son or daughter. We ask that you encourage your student to attend our educational programs and seek out campus resources through the web, campus directory, or by asking campus staff. You can find information about our services through the "Parent & Family Programs" website at [www.parents.tcnj.edu](http://www.parents.tcnj.edu). Our staff values opportunities to discuss concerns with students and direct them to appropriate resources. We appreciate your support in guiding your son or daughter to utilize our services as needed.

Thank you for taking the time to help us support TCNJ students in being responsible, healthy, and productive members of TCNJ’s community.

Best Regards,

Joe Hadge, M.Ed., SAC, CPS, LCADC
Assistant Director
Alcohol and Drug Education Program (ADEP)

Michelle Gervasi, MA, LAC, NCC
Coordinator
Anti-Violence Initiatives (AVI)

**HEALTH & WELLNESS UNIT • P.O. BOX 7718 • EWING, NJ 08628-0718**

P) 609.771.2571 • F) 609.637.5107