We are excited to have you be a part of our community whether you are new or returning to PSU! Please take a few moments to read this newsletter. It includes information about living at PSU, some of our expectations, and a worksheet to complete with your roommates to help you clarify living expectations.

**Staff**

Community Advisors: These are students spread throughout your community whose job is to build relationships, uphold policy, report work orders, and be an overall resource to residents. You will interact with your CA regularly throughout the year.

Residence Director: These are full-time professionals, also living in your residential area, who supervise the CA staff. They are the primary conduct hearing officers, manage the building program budget, monitor work orders and are also an overall resource to residents. You might see your RD a bit less than your CA, but never be afraid to stop in and say "hi" to them.

**Panther Pride**

We are proud of the work that our students and graduates do to improve their community and live respectfully with others. Please keep this in mind as you are out and about around campus and in the Plymouth region so that you are best representing yourself and PSU. Remember that all actions have consequences and we'd all prefer that you are striving to make positive impressions rather than negative ones.

**Being A Good Neighbor**

Living on campus can give rise to plenty of frustrations but is also full of opportunity. When you live on campus, more campus services and activities are easily accessible to you. You also have plenty of potential friends living all around you.

Being a good neighbor means letting your neighbor know if their music is just a bit too loud. It means topping by to chat when doors are open, and sometimes even when they are closed. It means knowing if your neighbors go home for the weekend and talking with each other if you’re frustrated that trash is being left on the porch or in the hallway. It means reminding each other when parking lots are being plowed, inviting each other to try new events. Your neighbors don’t have to turn out to be life-long friends but you should build some sort of relationship them.

**Self-Advocacy**

College is designed to be a transition from living with parents to living on your own. There are a number of services that exist to help you make that transition effectively. However, these services will not be visiting you to ask if you need their help. You will need to go to these services and ask for their help yourself. Being a good advocate means asking questions, taking notes, and asking to be directed to the next step.

Your CAs and RD will be happy to help direct you to any service available on campus if you are uncomfortable going on your own or confused about exactly where to go. That is a job expectation of each of us.

**Work Orders**

The buildings you live in will need to be fixed from time to time. If you discover something that needs to be fixed, you can enter a work order on your MyPlymouth under the services tab (the password is “panthers”). Please include as much detail as possible including the exact location of the problem and the specific concern. You can also go to a staff member and request their help. Staff can usually be found at the front desk or office.

**Important Numbers**

- UPD—535-2330
- Res Life—535-2260
- ITS Helpdesk—535-2929
- Financial Aid—535-2338
- Health Center—535-2350
- Counseling Center—535-2461
- S.A.G.E. Center—535-2387
Expectations

The following is not a comprehensive list of the rules. You can find the complete list at: http://www.plymouth.edu/office/dean-of-students/student-rights-and-code-of-conduct/

**Noise**

All of our residential communities have a 24 hour courtesy hours expectation. This means that all residents should try to avoid making noise that will disturb their neighbors. The flexibility of the college schedule allows residents to do homework, relax, and sleep at a variety of times. We want to ensure that students who want to sleep or focus quietly on homework are able to do so in their rooms. If anyone knocks on your door and asks you to quiet down, you are expected to do so respectfully.

Quiet Hours vary between living communities. Most often you will be expected to be quiet at 10:00 PM through 10:00 AM. These line up with the ordinances of the town of Plymouth. Please see a staff member for the specifics for your community. During Quiet Hours, residents are expected to stay quiet in common areas and keep noise contained in their rooms.

**Safety & Security**

Your safety and the security of your personal space and living area are our number one priority. We empower our residents by giving each of you the keys needed to access your apartment, or both your room and building. We expect each resident to lock their rooms when they leave and not to prop exterior doors open.

Your keys should stay in your possession at all times. Giving keys to friends, guests or roommates is prohibited. Should you break or lose your keys, please see your Residence Director to obtain a replacement. Lost room keys are $30 and will require a lock change. Lost building keys are $50. If too many residents in a building lose their building key, those locks will need to be changed as well. Please keep track of your keys.

**Marijuana & Other Drugs**

These are not permitted at any time and the police may be called if staff believes that this policy has been violated. Keep in mind that seeds, smoke, and smell of marijuana are all considered “evidence of use” according to PSU policy and are often considered a marijuana violation.

Smoking tobacco is only appropriate outside and twenty feet away from buildings, no matter the weather outside. This distance is marked by silver poles with cigarette bud collection cans around campus. Please be considerate of how cigarette smell will stick on your clothes and discuss this with your roommates.

If you choose to use chewing tobacco, please dispose of your spit promptly and in an appropriate place. Do not leave bottles of chew spit sitting in public areas like kitchen counters, porches, hallways, and communal bathrooms.

Under age students may not consume or be in the presence of alcohol. In addition, common source containers and alcohol paraphernalia is also against PSU policy. Students 21 years or older are expected to comply to all laws relating to alcohol and may not consume alcohol when their room door is open, in the hallway, or in common areas.
Please take some time to answer these questions with your roommates. These questions will help you set ground rules that will meet everyone’s needs. Your CAs and RD are more than happy to sit down with your room and help you create the agreement.

### Room Care
What chores need to be done? How will chores be divided evenly and rotated? Who buys cleaning supplies? What outside spaces do you need to care for?

### Personal Property
Do you have belongings you’d like to share with roommates? What is off-limits? How should roommates ask you to use your belongings?

### Making a Mess
Sometimes messes happen. How will you talk to your roommates when you know there’s a mess that needs to be cleaned? How will you handle the conversation if it’s trash or clothes? How will you handle the conversation if its vomit, urine, or any other bodily fluid?

### Waking Up/Sleeping Patterns
Are you an early riser or a night owl? Is this different for days you don't have to get up early? What are some expectations for when you are awake in the room and your roommate is asleep?
Visitors
Who can visit? When can they visit? How often can they visit? Can they sleep in a roommate’s bed? Can they share a roommate’s things?

Alone Time
How will you communicate with roommates that you’d like some time alone in the room? How often can each roommate ask for this?

Noise in the Room
Would you prefer your roommates didn’t talk on their cell phone in front of you in the room? If that’s okay, is there a time that is too early or too late? Remembering courtesy hours, what noise level for music or TV is too loud for your room?

Resolving Problems
When you have disagreements, or want to discuss changing this agreement, how do you share that with other roommates? How do you want to be approached by your roommates when you are frustrated?

I will use this agreement to help stay on good terms with my roommate and keep our living space clean and healthy for all of us. I will return to this agreement if we have disagreements and will work through altering the agreement with my roommates if it is needed.

Roommate 1: __________________________ Date: __________________________
Roommate 2: __________________________ Date: __________________________
Roommate 3: __________________________ Date: __________________________
Roommate 4: __________________________ Date: __________________________
Staff: __________________________ Date: __________________________