



DATE: August 2017

TO: Entering Students

FROM: Courtney Battista Bish
Vice President for Student Affairs/Dean of Students

Congratulations on your enrollment at SUNY Canton! I am sure you are excited to begin this new chapter of your life! Our hope is that you will quickly get involved with campus life. For the latest information on student activities and campus happenings, check out [Activities at SUNY Canton](#) or [SUNY Canton on Facebook](#) - or pick up an event calendar from the Student Activities Office (Miller Campus Center 211). Our new Convocation Athletic Recreation Center (CARC) houses an ice arena, pool, fitness center, field house, basketball court, and running track for your use.

As you begin your time at SUNY Canton, don't be afraid to ask questions. Far too often I encounter students who are "in crisis" for one reason or another. Asking questions early on and often could help you avoid many difficulties. If you go to the Student Affairs webpage (<http://www.canton.edu/student-affairs/>), you will see we have many support services and resources available to help you succeed with the transition to college life.

Students are drawn to SUNY Canton by its reputation as an institution of higher academic quality. We value this reputation, but we also recognize the importance of Canton's atmosphere – the style of the place – which contributes greatly to the intellectual and personal development of our students. This is a campus which encourages learning "in as well as out" of the classroom; a place in which to make valued and lasting friendships with a variety of people of many-varied backgrounds and viewpoints; a place of energy and reflection; a place rich in opportunities for active involvement.

It is, however, not a place which tolerates illegal use of alcohol, drugs or violence. I am sure that you are aware of the State laws restricting the possession and/or consumption of alcoholic beverages by persons under 21 years of age but what you may not be aware of is the College's **Alcohol, Drug and Violence Policy which can be found in the Student Handbook**. **Just click on this link for the Handbook at <http://www.canton.edu/student-affairs/pdf/handbook.pdf>**. The Village of Canton, St. Lawrence University, and SUNY Canton have all agreed to work together to curb underage drinking and drug usage in the Canton community. **Both universities pursue disciplinary action against their students who behave inappropriately off campus in the Canton community.**

I would also like to draw your attention to a SUNY policy regarding hazing. Hazing can occur in any kind of group, but all-male groups such as fraternities and sports teams seem to be the most prone, though nationally female groups are increasingly being hazed. It is a violation of the NYS Penal Law and a violation of the College's Code of Conduct, found in the Student Handbook (<http://www.canton.edu/student-affairs/pdf/handbook.pdf>). If an individual is found to have

violated the College's Hazing Policy, the following action will be taken: the student will be suspended/expelled from the College with a permanent notation recorded on their official transcript; they will lose all academic credit for the semester; and they will remain liable for all the semester's tuition and fees. Likewise, bullying of any kind or in any medium is not tolerated at SUNY Canton and results in disciplinary action as well.

In order for you to maximize your education, the College offers many opportunities to GET INVOLVED. A wide array of clubs and organizations along with leadership and community service opportunities are offered. You should be able to find some niche that fits your interests, needs and skills. Academics are important, but that is only part of the picture of student development. Employer after employer tells us they are looking for students who get involved and have developed leadership and communication skills.

REMINDER: The "OFFICIAL" means of communication with students is your SUNY Canton e-mail. If you already have another e-mail account (i.e., yahoo, hotmail, etc.), just set your campus e-mail account so it will forward the campus e-mail to the account that you already use. If you have any problems with your campus e-mail account, please call our Help Desk at (315)386-7448.

Last, but probably most important, keep your family or support system in the communication loop. They offer a wealth of advice and support which is so critically needed in order to be successful. Use them as a sounding board, keeping them informed of your daily ups and downs. They helped you get to this point – they are your support team, so please keep in contact with them.

If you would like to discuss the contents of this letter, please feel free to stop at my office in the Miller Campus Center 229, or call me at (315)386-7120 or e-mail me at bish@canton.edu. Best of luck to you in your academic career at SUNY Canton!