

LAFAYETTE COLLEGE

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Dear Parents of the 185th Lafayette Class,

We are pleased to be writing to you in your role as Lafayette parents. We look forward to meeting many of you next month during new student orientation. In the meantime, we wanted to write to you with some important information and a request for your help.

During the next four years, your children will grow and change in large part based on personal interactions with peers and the environment in which they will be living. We know that the culture at Lafayette College will have a big impact on your child's development.

We take every aspect of the Lafayette College education seriously. To that end, we have implemented a number of educational programs to help our students – your children – make the safest, healthiest decisions possible outside of the classroom. Two of them will occur before they arrive on College Hill next month.

Lafayette partners with [EverFi](#), whose mission is to help students address critical life skills such as alcohol abuse prevention as well as sexual violence and harassment prevention in higher education institutions across the country, to help us in these educational efforts.

Incoming first-year and transfer students are required to complete two on-line courses before beginning class in late August: AlcoholEdu and Haven. We will be communicating directly with students regarding the information and instructions they need to complete these courses. To help ensure students meet these requirements, please remind your child that all students must complete Part 1 of for each of the courses **by August 25, 2016.**

In addition to reminding your child about this requirement, here's how you can help us in keeping them safe. Researchers have indicated that parents tend to underestimate how frequently their own college-age child drinks ([Bylund, Imes, & Baxter, 2005](#)). Further, separate studies ([Abar, Abar, & Turrisi, 2009](#)) have shown **how important it is for parents to have candid conversations with their son or daughter about alcohol or other drug use** and that **these conversations can actually reduce or curb a student's use of alcohol during the first semester of college.** In short, messages from you on this topic matter a great deal in helping to keep your son or daughter safe.

Lafayette is pleased to be able to provide you with a guide to aid you in having these conversations. You can find the guide at this link: [A Parent Handbook for Talking with College Students About Alcohol](#)

Recognizing, too, the important role parents play in the development of healthy perspectives on sexual assault and relationship violence, we are also pleased to offer you a resource called, [Haven](#)

[for Parents](#). This resource will help parents to better understand the *Haven* program, how to talk to your children about these sensitive issues, and how to best prepare them to meet the unique challenges and opportunities of college life.

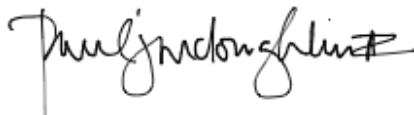
Each year over 500,000 students complete [AlcoholEdu](#) – EverFi’s online, non-opinionated, science-based alcohol abuse prevention course. This one to two hour, interactive program uses the latest prevention techniques and research to educate students about the impact of alcohol on the mind and body. Whether or not your child chooses to abstain from alcohol, AlcoholEdu has empowered our students to make well-informed decisions about alcohol and help him or her better cope with the drinking behavior of peers.

Last year, more than 450,000 students across the United States completed [Haven](#) - EverFi’s online learning platform addressing the critical issues of sexual violence, relationship violence, and stalking, which impact countless college students across the country. Built in collaboration with leading researchers and practitioners, Haven is an interactive module designed to engage and empower students to create safe, healthy campus environments.

In Haven, students are encouraged to reflect on their personal values and expectations in relationships as a foundation for personal engagement. The program’s primary focus is to promote healthy relationships based on positive communication and respect. Haven demonstrates for students the warning signs of abuse, and situations that may be challenging or confusing regarding consent in their own relationships and those of others.

We are confident that AlcoholEdu and Haven will help ensure your child’s success at Lafayette College and in the future. If you have any questions on the programming that we at Lafayette College offer, please feel free to contact either of us at our emails below.

Sincerely,



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