Dear Spartan Families,

Welcome to Michigan State University!

Congratulations on your student’s decision to join or return to the Michigan State University community. No matter the distance between your home and campus, you will continue to play an important role in your student’s growth and development as a valued source of support and advice.

The faculty and staff at MSU are here to help facilitate your student’s journey by building a community that values student learning, engagement and development through our Neighborhood Model; intercultural learning and inclusion; safety and security of residents, staff and guests; and sustainable practices.

Inside this issue of Live On Family News you will find important information that will help you prepare for your student’s arrival to campus in the fall and first year as a Spartan.

If you are a new Spartan family, you will receive a wealth of information about your student’s transition to MSU during your visit to campus this summer for the Parent Orientation Program. In the meantime, whether you are a new or returning Spartan family, we encourage you to explore www.liveon.msu.edu to learn as much as you can about on-campus living at MSU. We invite you to pay specific attention to www.liveon.msu.edu/neighborhoods to learn about the resources available in the MSU Neighborhoods such as tutors, academic advisors, health practitioners and other professionals who support your student’s success.

If you have specific questions not addressed inside or on www.liveon.msu.edu, please contact the Housing Assignments Office at 877-9LIVEON (954-8366) or liveon@msu.edu.

We look forward to seeing you soon. Until then, Go Green!

Sincerely,

Kathy Collins, Ph.D.
SAFETY AND SECURITY

MSU takes the safety and security of our residents very seriously. We also believe students must share responsibility for staying safe on campus. On-campus safety measures include:

• Residence halls equipped with electronic building access technology restricting access to the exterior doors, living wings and elevators. Living wings in residence halls are locked 24 hours a day, seven days a week.
• Residence halls with public space are locked at midnight and residents must use their MSU ID card to access the building.
• All residence hall guests must be escorted by a resident for the duration of their stay.
• All student room doors are equipped with peepholes and students are encouraged to keep their doors locked at all times.
• Residence halls are equipped with fire alarm systems, fire-rated doors and hard-wired smoke detectors.
• As residence halls are renovated, sprinkler suppression systems are also added.
• In the event of an emergency, the East Lansing Fire Department has a station on campus for fast response.
• Inside, emergency phones have been installed within the sightline of every student room door in the residence halls.
• In the event of a large-scale emergency, our reverse-911 system allows us to reach students quickly with necessary information.
• All members of the MSU community are encouraged to sign up for the MSU Alert System in order to receive quick and easy notification in the event of an emergency.
• The Olin Health Center and the MSU Counseling Center are available to MSU students experiencing physical or mental health issues.

TIPS ON ADJUSTING TO CAMPUS LIVING

We are so happy to have you as part of the Spartan family. While living on campus, your student will have the opportunity to:

Get involved with the residence hall community. You can help by:
• Urging your student to be an active member of the hall community by attending floor programs, floor meetings and hall events.
• Suggesting that your student meet people by attending hall-based government and caucus meetings.
• Discussing expectations for your student’s academic and social conduct.
• Encouraging your student to lock room doors and not leave personal belongings unattended while on campus. We believe students must share responsibility for staying safe on campus.
• Reminding your student to get to know the resident assistant (RA) and Office of Cultural and Academic Transitional intercultural aide. These undergraduate staff members receive extensive training in order to help your student successfully transition to college.

Achieve academic success. You can help by:
• Emphasizing the importance of creating study groups with those who live nearby.
• Encouraging your student to explore new ways of thinking about potential career options.
• Asking your student what they are learning. Encourage discussions about classroom experiences with friends.
• Helping your student select a housing option that meets certain preferences (things like quiet floors or living-learning communities).
• Reminding your student to seek out MSU’s many academic resources, many of which can be found right in their neighborhood engagement center. RAs and Office of Cultural and Academic Transitional intercultural aides can be very helpful in connecting your student with those resources.

Learn about themselves and others. You can help by:
• Encouraging your student to get to know others on the floor and in the hall, extending social circles to include individuals with different backgrounds, identities and interests.
• Asking your student what makes each of his or her new friends unique and interesting.
• Helping your student strategize how to candidly discuss expectations for living together with roommates and suitemates.
• Expecting your student to take initiative to solve his or her own problems.
• Sharing your hope that your student will reflect on decisions made and learn from these important college experiences.
College is a time for your student to grow and discover the world around them — but it can also be a little overwhelming. With MSU Neighborhoods, your student has an opportunity to realize their full potential through a wide range of programs, activities, and support services.

At MSU, we strive to provide the best possible living arrangements with easy access to everything the University has to offer. Your student can manage their housing preferences by logging on to iLiveOn at www.liveon.msu.edu. Each of the five neighborhoods listed below is comprised of several residence halls, newly renovated dining halls, Sparty’s convenience options and an engagement center.

- Brody
- East
- North
- River Trail
- South

ENGAGEMENT CENTERS: CONVENIENT & CLOSE
The engagement centers are unique spaces located in each neighborhood and serve as the main access point to important resources such as tutors, academic advisors, health practitioners and other consultants that can help your student navigate his or her college career.

Each week, engagement centers host individual and group tutoring for many first and second year courses, social and cultural activities, as well as fitness classes for Yoga, cardio kick boxing and Zumba through the Live On and Be Fit program. Additionally, there are workshops on practical topics such as using the library, sharpening study skills, searching for internships, managing personal finances and more.

WHERE TO FIND THE ADDRESS FOR CAMPUS BUILDINGS
In 2012, street addresses were assigned to all buildings on MSU’s East Lansing campus, including residence halls, academic halls, administrative buildings and athletic venues. The new street addresses have improved emergency and public safety responses on campus by meeting 911 dispatching service requirements. Additionally, campus addresses can now be used with mapping and navigation software applications. Once your student has received his or her hall and room assignment in August, you can locate the new campus address by visiting www.campusaddresses.msu.edu.
EATING AT STATE

MSU’s award-winning Culinary Services team provides residents with dining excellence from 7 a.m. to midnight, seven days a week. With 10 residential dining halls, each neighborhood offers made-to-order, fresh and healthy options. Your student is sure to eat well while living on campus. When you’re visiting, grab a meal at one of our locations, including:

- The Gallery at Snyder/Phillips
- Brody Square
- South Pointe at Case Hall
- The Vista at Shaw Hall

MSU’s flexible dining plans feature Combo-X-Change, allowing students to use their meal options at all 21 Sparty’s locations.

NEW DINING OPTIONS FOR 2014-2015

HERITAGE COMMONS AT LANDON HALL
Our newest dining hall will open August 23, 2014 after 14 months of renovation. The new dining hall will feature three entrée venue stations, serving a variety of items, and will also feature an entrée salad bar.

- Sizzle — An old-fashion diner offering a mixture of made-to-order and prepared sandwiches and entrées, plus vegetarian and fusion cuisine.
- Landon Bistro — A rotisserie oven venue serving a variety of dishes such as chicken, beef, pork, salmon and many sides.
- Global Flavors — International cuisine serving deli sandwiches and stews, bars and casserole-style dishes.

- Grains and Greens — Serving hot breakfast in the morning and changing over to a salad-and-soup bar in the afternoon and evening.

For more information, visit www.eatatstate.com.

AKERS DINING HALL NOTICE
Akers Dining Hall will close for renovations on May 2, 2014, and reopen for spring semester in January 2015. The fully renovated dining hall will offer tandoori ovens and a smoker for daily smoked meat options — two exciting features unique to Akers Dining Hall. The dining hall will also include a stir-fry/pasta station, burgers, pizza, sandwiches, salads, a breakfast nook and desserts.

For more information, visit www.eatatstate.com.

ACCOMMODATING DIETARY RESTRICTIONS

Our professional dining staff is available to assist in finding menu options that fit your needs, including vegetarian, vegan and gluten-free offerings. If your student has dietary restrictions due to health concerns, food allergies or religious observances, we encourage them to meet with and develop a relationship with our registered dietitian, executive chefs or dining hall managers to discuss options. Kosher cuisine is available at Wilson Dining Hall and Brody Square; halal foods are featured at Riverwalk Market at Owen Hall and Holmes Dining Hall. All of our residential dining hall menus are marked with food labels for easy identification. To view menus and nutritional information, visit www.eatatstate.com.

HAVE A STUDENT LIVING OFF-CAMPUS?

If you’re a veteran Spartan parent and have a junior or senior student living off-campus next year, flexible off-campus dining plans are still available! With our off-campus dining plan, your student can eat at any of our residential dining halls multiple times each week and also use the Combo-X-Change feature wherever it’s accepted. Plus, off-campus dining plans don’t expire and can be used to bring guests — including parents — to the dining halls. For more information, visit www.eatatstate.com.

SWEET TREATS FROM THE MSU BAKERS

MSU Bakers is our on-campus bakery that provides fresh-baked goods to the campus community. You can send your student delicious, wholesome breads and bagels or sweet treats for birthdays, finals, graduation and more throughout the year! For more information and to view specials or place an order, visit www.msubakers.com.
Summer is right around the corner and with that comes the task of preparing to send your student off to college in the fall. At MSU, we strive to provide services and information to help your student make a smooth, successful transition. Yet, we understand that your student will face some challenges as they adjust to college life and that you are their most important support system.

To help you, we spoke with our expert Residence Education and Housing Services staff and prepared the suggestions below for you to use in supporting your student during this time of transition.

**ADJUSTING TO THE ACADEMIC WORKLOAD AND AMOUNT OF STUDYING REQUIRED**

How you can help:

- Encourage your student to meet with faculty early and often. Making those connections in the first three weeks is important to success all semester.
- Talk with your student about possible career goals and encourage them to seek internships or on-campus jobs to gain experience in those areas.
- Help reinforce your student’s study habits such as studying a minimum of three hours for every one hour of class! Joining a peer study group is also a great way to seek help.

**GETTING INVOLVED ON CAMPUS AND OVERCOMING HOMESICKNESS**

How you can help:

- Be understanding. This is a time of transition for both you and your student.
- Encourage them to be themselves and get noticed. On a campus as large as MSU, it helps to stand out from the crowd as you meet new people.
- Encourage your student to bring items from home to remind them of family and friends.
- Have your student talk to resident assistants (RAs) about getting involved in activities or groups. It is helpful to explore activities in which your student may already have an interest.

**REFINING TIME MANAGEMENT SKILLS**

How you can help:

- Listen and offer support. Often the challenge is not that students don’t know how to plan, but that they now need to prioritize many additional activities (academic, social, student groups, etc.).
- Be patient and offer advice. Your student will most likely go through a time of trial and error before forming good habits.

**LIVING WITHIN A BUDGET AND UNDERSTANDING MONEY MANAGEMENT**

How you can help:

- Encourage your student to get an on-campus job. Often on-campus jobs are more flexible around classes, projects and exams yet still allow your student to earn money.
- Talk to your student about living within a budget, the dangers of credit card debt, interest rates and student loans.
- If it is within your means, help with textbooks, technology and travel to home. This will allow your student to budget “fun money” for food and entertainment as a first step. If they make a mistake — dining plans are always there for food and there are hundreds of free student activities each year on campus.

**OWNING DECISIONS AND BECOMING INDEPENDENT**

How you can help:

- Talk to your student about decision making before arriving at MSU. Walk through the process and give examples of good versus bad decisions.
- Practice. If you still find yourself making decisions for your student (in his or her best interest, of course), stop. Allow your student to make decisions and think through the possible outcomes.
- Discuss critical thinking skills.
- Respect your student’s new independence. One area where your student will grow significantly is conflict resolution. Whether it is with a roommate or a professor, play the role of confidant and offer advice rather than taking action and trying to resolve the issue for them.

**MAKING FRIENDS**

How you can help:

- Encourage your student to meet other residents from their hall floor, building and MSU Neighborhood. RAs are always planning activities to give students the chance to meet and find common interests.
- Encourage your student to talk to their peers in class. That’s a great way to meet people because you are starting with something in common.

Heading off to college — either across town or across the country — with new responsibilities and experiences can be overwhelming. Arm your student with the skills and positive attitude necessary to live and learn successfully on campus!
WARNING SIGNS OF HOMESICKNESS/DEPRESSION

It is not unusual for students to have their first encounter with depression or anxiety during this time of transition and life changes. It may help your student to know that it’s normal to experience some temporary depression or anxiety while in college.

Here are some warning signs that may indicate your student is struggling:

- Abrupt or radical changes in behavior
- Isolation from others
- Drastic changes in personal appearance or hygiene
- Poor attendance or shift in quality of performance in class
- Low self-esteem, feeling sad or helpless
- Attention or memory difficulties
- Talking about death or having suicidal thoughts
- Chronic fatigue, low energy or falling asleep in class
- Irritability, emotional outbursts or the inability to sit still

We encourage you to call and talk with your student if you think they are having a hard time. You are your student’s first line of support, but please know that we are here to help too.

The MSU Counseling Center is committed to providing sensitive, quality services to all students. The services we provide are confidential and your student should feel confident in asking for assistance when needed. The Counseling Center is staffed by fully licensed psychologists, counselors and social workers. Select doctoral- and masters-level interns are also on staff and work under the supervision of licensed senior staff members.

SPARTAN CASH

Spartan Cash is a safe and convenient way for students to use their MSU ID cards to access a wide variety of services and products. (Spartan Cash vendors do not sell alcohol or tobacco products.) You can pre-load Spartan Cash dollars onto your student’s MSU ID card for use at more than 100 locations across campus and the local community. Some dining plans come with Spartan Cash automatically. For a complete list of vendors, go to www.spartancash.com.

WIN A SPARTAN BOOKSTORE GIFT CARD!

When you attend the summer Parent Orientation Program, be sure to stop at the Residence Education and Housing Services table in the registration area. There you can sign up for Live On Family News — our monthly newsletter that will keep you up-to-date on important campus information. When you subscribe to Live On Family News during your Parent Orientation Program, you’ll be entered in a drawing to win a $150 Spartan Bookstore gift card.

Thanks to our friends at the Spartan Bookstore for making a donation during each Parent Orientation Program this summer.

MSU COMPUTER STORE | HELP AND REPAIR

The MSU Computer Store is on campus to help with technology purchases and repairs. They offer Apple, Dell and Lenovo products as well as software and accessories — all at student-discounted prices! All repairs are completed on campus by experienced computer repair technicians. Look for the latest Student Resource Guide in the mail. You may request additional copies by calling 517-432-0700. For more information or to shop online, visit www.cstore.msu.edu.
University Activities Board (UAB) hosts more than 300 events annually on campus — most free to MSU students. Visit www.uaevents.com for more information. Many of these events are funded through our Residence Hall Linen and Carpet fundraising programs. Learn more below.

**RESIDENCE HALL LINEN PROGRAM**
Many students wish to personalize their space beyond the white bed linens and towels that are included with on-campus housing. The Residence Hall Linen Program gives students the option to upgrade to popular colors and patterns designed especially for college students. Call 800-957-4338 or visit www.rhl.org/mst to place an order. Hurry — before the most popular colors or patterns are sold out!

**RESIDENCE HALL CARPET PROGRAM**
Your student can enjoy the convenience of on-campus pick up and a special student rate when he or she pre-orders a carpet through the Residence Hall Carpet Program. Select from brand new, top-quality, plush carpet sized perfectly for a residence hall room and it will be waiting for your student during move-in at one of four locations on campus. Call 800-892-8729 or visit www.rhscarpets.com/mst to place an order.

**BEDLOFT.COM**
MSU partners with Bedloft.com to offer students a number of convenient and affordable products that enhance their residence hall room. Your student can choose to rent a unique MicroFridge unit that includes a microwave, refrigerator and true freezer all in one. Bedloft.com also offers futons and personal safes for purchase. Place your order online before the pre-order deadline of August 7, 2014 to guarantee FREE in-room delivery before move-in day! Visit www.bedloft.com to place your order.
WHAT TO EXPECT THE FIRST YEAR

NEIGHBORHOOD ASSIGNMENTS
In June, your student will receive an email that will provide instructions on how to view their campus neighborhood assignment.

HOUSING CONTRACT
In the neighborhood assignment email, there will be directions on how your student can sign the Housing Contract. The Housing Contract is a legally binding document so be sure to read it thoroughly. When your student signs the Contract, they are agreeing to abide by all the terms of the Contract, including the supplemental terms and conditions outlined in the On-Campus Housing Handbook.

If your student is under the age of 18, their Housing Contract must be co-signed by a parent or legal guardian.

PARENT/ACADEMIC ORIENTATION PROGRAMS
The Parent/Academic Orientation Program (POP/AOP) begins in June. At POP/AOP, you and your student will learn more about what it means to be a Spartan and what to expect during the college journey at MSU. University representatives and current MSU students will be on hand to answer any questions that you may have.

ROOM ASSIGNMENTS
Room and roommate assignments will be sent out via email in late July. Contact information for your student’s roommate(s) will be included in that email. We recommend that your student connect with their roommate(s) before moving to campus. This is a good opportunity to discuss plans for room decorations, room essentials and what time you expect to arrive on move-in day. It is also a good time to discuss expectations for living arrangements. Students will want to make sure that they are on the same page as their roommate(s) when it comes to visitors, cleaning, bed times and other important decisions to ensure a smooth transition and a successful school year.

MOVE-IN DAY
Move-in day will be one of the best days of your student’s life, and of course, one of the busiest. It is important to be prepared because thousands of other Spartans are also beginning their journeys. Here are the basics of what you need to know:

- **MSU Live On 2014 Guidebook** — The move-in day guide will be available on the Guidebook mobile app before move-in day arrives. Familiarize yourself with the information inside. The app will provide you with details on parking, shuttle services, shopping locations, a move-in checklist, video and social media resources and more. The app is available for download by visiting the App Store (Apple products), Google Play (Android products) or by visiting [www.guidebook.com](http://www.guidebook.com). Once the app has been downloaded, search MSU Live On 2014 for access. If you do not have a smartphone, all information contained in the guide will be available on our website, [www.liveon.msu.edu](http://www.liveon.msu.edu).

- **Traffic** — Summer construction projects near campus are scheduled to end before move-in day. However, expect for traffic leading to campus to be heavier than normal. Please plan ahead and give yourself extra time to make up for any possible delays.

- **Dining** — Spartans and their families are invited to the dining halls on their move-in day for a complimentary meal. For more information on hours and locations, visit [www.eatatstate.com](http://www.eatatstate.com).
Assistant Community Directors

Part-time, graduate level, live-in staff member who is responsible for developing an environment where students can excel academically and personally. They supervise the Resident Assistant team and advise in-hall student organizations.

17 Community Directors

Full-time, live-in staff member who is responsible for overseeing daily operations in a residence hall or apartment community. They create a community that fosters academic excellence and personal growth for residents.

327 Resident Assistants

Live-in, student staff member who supports the academic community in the residence hall. They are responsible for developing and executing programming that allows for multicultural learning, character-building, community and personal well-being.

76 Intercultural Aides

Live-in staff member who helps students make successful cultural, social and academic transitions to MSU. They work closely with the Resident Assistant team to plan engaging activities that bring together students from all different backgrounds.

STAY UP TO DATE ON HOUSING INFORMATION

Your resource for all things concerning student housing is the Live On website, www.liveon.msu.edu. Here you can keep up on what’s happening around campus in our “News and Happenings” section of the home page. You can also access a wealth of information about amenities and programs that are available in our residence halls, our safety and security initiatives and more. There is also an FAQ section where you can find the answers to most of your housing questions.

Live On is active on social media. Follow us on Facebook, Twitter, Instagram and YouTube. You can also read and subscribe to our Live On blog at msuliveon.tumblr.com. These social media profiles will provide you with an inside look at student housing. You will stay up to date on events, housing deadlines, campus safety announcements and more.
You might already know that each floor of every residence hall is assigned a resident assistant (RA). Your student’s RA will help them adjust during the first year at MSU and serve as a go-to person for questions. But did you know that in addition to RAs, each neighborhood has many Resident Education team members? We’d like to tell you more about the assistant directors for Resident Education at Michigan State University.

There are five neighborhoods on campus: Brody, East, North, River Trail and South. There is one assistant director (AD) per neighborhood. They oversee the operations of that community. Each AD is responsible for supervising team members that engage with students in the residence halls each day. ADs work closely with campus partners, including engagement center teams, to ensure that your student has a positive and rewarding experience while living on campus.

In a crisis situation, ADs set the tone of leadership and accountability in response, making sure that those same qualities and responsibilities are exhibited in the staff they supervise. Ultimately, the goal of this team is to create unique and inclusive spaces
Residence Education and Housing Services is part of the Division of Residential and Hospitality Services at Michigan State University.

*Live On Family News* is a monthly newsletter published throughout the academic year to keep Spartan families connected to what is happening in Residence Education and Housing Services at MSU. You can subscribe to receive this free newsletter and read past issues at [www.liveon.msu.edu](http://www.liveon.msu.edu).

**VISIT US ONLINE: WWW.LIVEON.MSU.EDU**