

## Treat Them as Adults

One of the best ways to support your student is by understanding the college's role in his/her life. We're not here to take over in a parenting role – that's solely up to you. We are here, however, to help your student develop into a responsible, healthy adult.

### Student Development

What is student development all about?

- ▶ we provide opportunities for students to achieve competence in academic and non-academic areas
- ▶ we challenge them while also providing support
- ▶ we teach them how to manage emotions, from anger to self-esteem and everything in between
- ▶ we help them become autonomous so that they are no longer dependent but, rather, interdependent, on others
- ▶ we encourage them to determine who they really are on many levels
- ▶ we support the development of positive relationships, including those with family, friends, partners and diverse individuals
- ▶ we help students identify and pursue their purpose
- ▶ we offer assistance as they develop their values and figure out what they stand for

Many members of the campus community are involved in the student development process on a daily basis. They include: community living, counseling services, orientation guides, support staff, student leaders, career services professionals, health services, faculty members, academic support services, student activities staff and campus ministry personnel.

### As Students Life Staff...

- > we make ourselves very available to students, during “office hours” and
- > we welcome students coming to us with a problem
- > we treat students as adults, getting them involved in solving their own issues instead of relying upon others to do it for them
- > we intervene if we become aware of a potentially life-threatening behavior
- > we respect students' privacy yet don't always promise confidentiality- after all, we may need to get others involved in order to ensure students' well-being
- > we don't serve as “babysitters” for students
- > we are concerned with students' safety and educate them on ways to keep them safe
- > we don't ever want to see a student get hurt
- > we expect students to take responsibility for their actions
- > we are here to support students