Spring Message Update

The message below was emailed to you a couple weeks ago. I trust you will heed my advice and end the semester positively. I also want to make you aware of a recently enacted local ordinance. The City of Cortland has enacted a Social Host law that makes any tenant (renter) or owner legally responsible for individuals at their residence who unlawfully use or possess alcohol or drugs at their residence. Essentially, you can be held legally responsible if anyone under 21 years old is using or possessing alcohol or drugs at your house or on your property. The penalty for violating this law can include a fine or jail time. Violations will also affect your status with the College. As I wrote below, be smart, stay safe, and finish the semester strong.

Spring Message

After a long, cold, snowy winter, spring weather is a much welcomed change. The warmer and longer days offer more opportunities to socialize outdoors. I'd like to remind everyone to be safe and make smart decisions about how you socialize.

Large, outdoor parties sound like fun. Too often, however, they unintentionally get out of hand under the influence of alcohol and other drugs. When that happens, neighborhood properties get damaged, students get hurt (sometimes seriously), and promising young adults are arrested and face disciplinary action by the College. Every year, some students learn too late that SUNY Cortland students are held accountable on-campus for off-campus behavior.

What seemed like fun at the time can have long-term effects, and SUNY Cortland students are not immune from those consequences. An arrest record or College disciplinary action will affect your status at the College and can negatively impact your employment plans. And an injury, whether you are the one who caused it or the one who was hurt, can change your life forever.

Please remember that the College is part of a larger community. Try to imagine that your parents, grandparents, or younger siblings, live next door. How would you want their neighbors to act? Would it be appropriate for someone to urinate in their yard or vandalize their property?

I urge you to think. Think about how decisions you make on one warm, spring day can alter your life forever. Think about how you will explain that to your family. Are you willing to risk your career goals, your reputation and your future for the bad judgment you use today?

Finally, remember to keep your focus on the main reason you are here – your education. Be smart, stay safe and finish the semester strong.

C. Gregory Sharer

Vice President for Student Affairs

SUNY Cortland