

Dear Class of 2013 Parents,

Sending your child off to college for the first time is never an easy thing to do. In the next four years, your child will grow and change in large part based on personal interactions and the environment in which he or she is living. We recognize that the culture at Union will have a big impact on your child's growth.

We take every part of the Union experience very seriously, and we have implemented a comprehensive prevention program to help our students – your children – make the safest, healthiest decisions possible.

One way we do that is through AlcoholEdu® for College, a two to three-hour, Web-based alcohol prevention program being used at more than 500 colleges and universities around the country. The program uses the latest prevention techniques and science-based research to educate students about the impact of alcohol on the mind and body. Whether or not your child drinks alcohol, AlcoholEdu for College will empower your child to make well-informed decisions about alcohol and help him or her better cope with the drinking behavior of peers.

Every incoming first-year student will be required to take AlcoholEdu for College and pass the course Exam. We will be communicating directly with your child regarding the information and instructions he/she needs to complete this course. To help ensure that your child meets this requirement, please remind your son or daughter that all *students* must complete Part 1 of the course by August 31, 2009.

While we are committed to making a difference with our students, we also understand that parents are the first line of defense against alcohol misuse and abuse. That's why we have made AlcoholEdu® for Parents available to you.

AlcoholEdu for Parents is an online program designed to support your conversations about alcohol that will help shape the decisions your child must make in college surrounding alcohol use.

The program includes:

- A brief introduction and suggestions on the best way to start conversations about alcohol (15 min).
- An overview of the AlcoholEdu for College course structure and key concepts (5 min).
- Direct access to AlcoholEdu for College, in an easy-to-use format that allows you to navigate freely from chapter to chapter (approx. 3 hours).
- Helpful resources, such as tips on talking to your college student about alcohol, fact sheets on alcohol's effect on the brain, how alcohol impairs learning and memory, and more.

Please note: Your participation is optional. If you choose to review the course, instructions are on the reverse side. If you have taken AlcoholEdu for High School, we still encourage you to participate in this program, as it does address this stage of your student's life.

We are confident that AlcoholEdu for College will help ensure your child's success at Union and in the future. If you have any questions on the programming that we at Union offer, please feel free to contact me.

Sincerely,



Kate Schurick
Dean of First-Year Students