



LOYOLA UNIVERSITY MARYLAND

— 1852 —

June 2017

Dear Parents and Family of the Class of 2021,

Welcome to Loyola University Maryland! I enjoyed meeting many family members of incoming students during the Summer Orientation program and look forward to seeing you again the next time you're on campus. Our community is excited to welcome your student to Loyola, and we want to partner with you to make sure that the experience is positive, healthy, and safe.

To help ensure that your student is well-prepared for some of the challenges all college students face, we are offering an important program to our first-year students: *Think About It*, a 1.5-2.5 hour, web-based alcohol harm reduction program used by some of the leading colleges and universities in the country.

The program offers the latest prevention techniques and science-based research to educate students about the importance of healthy relationships and the impact of alcohol on the mind and body. Whether or not your student drinks alcohol, *Think About It* will empower him or her to make well-informed decisions and to better cope with the drinking behavior of peers.

We feel so strongly about the benefits of this program that we are **requiring** all first-year students to complete Part I of the *Think About It* course by Tuesday, Aug. 29, 2017. They will not be permitted to move into their residence hall until the course is complete. Your student will soon receive information and instructions for the program and I encourage you to remind them of the importance of this initiative and to meet the Aug. 29 deadline.

Please partner with us to help keep our students, safe. Research indicates that pre-matriculation discussions between family members and students regarding alcohol use correlate with healthier student drinking patterns throughout their college experience. To help you have these conversations with your student we are including the booklet "Conversations for the Car Ride Home" in your folder during orientation, which includes questions and discussion topics that Loyola families have found helpful in the past. Additional resources are also available on The Office of Student Support and Wellness Promotion website at: <http://www.loyola.edu/departments/sswp>.

The first semester of college can be a high risk time for students, and we have made this major investment as a component of a comprehensive prevention program to encourage students to make wise decisions from the beginning. If you have any questions about our comprehensive prevention programs or alcohol and drug services that we offer at Loyola, please contact The Office of Student Support and Wellness Promotion at 410-617-2928.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Donelda Cook".

Donelda Cook, Ph.D.

Vice President for Student Development